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Japan

USSR's Bessmertnykh To Visit in Late Mar

OW0103130191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Friday his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh is expected to visit Japan around March 30 or 31 to prepare for President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit in April.

Nakayama made the remark in reply to an opposition questioner at a session of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

Bessmertnykh's visit was agreed when the Japanese and Soviet foreign ministers met in Moscow in January for regular foreign ministerial consultations.

The Soviet minister told Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada in Moscow in February that he would visit Japan late March.

Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said Japan proposed that Bessmertnykh make the visit on March 30-31, but has received no response from the Soviet Union.

'Sources' Respond to USSR Official's Remarks

OW0103134591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—If Moscow was prepared to observe a 1956 agreement and return two of the four disputed Northern islands to Japan, it would be a starting point for resolving the outstanding territorial issue, Foreign Ministry sources said Friday.

The sources were responding to a KYODO NEWS SERVICE report that Sergey Akhromeyev, Soviet presidential adviser on military affairs, said the 35-year-old Japan-Soviet joint declaration promised the return to Japan of two of the four islands—Shikotan and the Habomai group.

The sources raised the possibility President Mikhail Gorbachev will suggest returning the islands during his visit to Japan in April.

The chain of four islands, known in Japan as the Northern territories, were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II. The other two islands in the chain, also claimed by Japan, are Kunashiri and Etorofu.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama is already on record as insisting that the Northern territories issue will not be resolved until all four islands are returned to Japan.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Moscow on Thursday, Akhromeyev said the two countries should open talks on the return to Japan of Shikotan and the Habomai group as Moscow had promised in 1956.

Meanwhile, Soviet Ambassador to Japan Lyudvig Chizhov cautioned against excessive Japanese expectations that Gorbachev's visit in April will bring about a settlement of the territorial dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union.

In a meeting with members of the House of Councillors Ad Hoc Committee on the Northern Territories, Chizhov said that the territorial issue will not be resolved by a few rounds of negotiations between the two nations.

He called on Japan to expand bilateral economic relations apart from the territorial issue.

The Tokyo government has insisted on a solution to the territorial problem as a precondition for developing full economic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

USSR Deputy Premier To Visit 10-17 Mar

OW0403092291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Soviet Keputy Prime Minister Nikolay Laverov will visit Japan on March 10-17 for a Japan-Soviet science seminar and meetings with senior Japanese Government officials, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Laverov, who also serves as chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, will attend a Soviet science and technology fair during his stay in Tokyo.

The March 12-14 exposition is part of bilateral economic exchanges featuring shows of the latest Soviet electronics, biotechnology, and materials.

Ministry officials said schedules are now being arranged for Laverov's meetings with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Science and Technology Agency Director General Akiko Santo, and other cabinet ministers.

Kaifu: $9 Billion Could Help With Reconstruction

OW0403105191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Monday that Japan stands by its 9 billion dollar pledge to the allied war effort, but suggested some of the money could be used to finance economic reconstruction due to the early end of hostilities.

"The war may be over, but that doesn't mean that the entire (crisis) is finished. There are many things left to be done to restore peace and stability to the Persian Gulf region," Kaifu told the House of Councillors Budget Committee.

Any left-over funds would be used for such a purpose, Kaifu said. His comment came three days after U.S.

President George Bush called on Japan and West Germany to "fulfill the commitments that they have already made."

Japan promised to add 9 billion dollars to an earlier 2 billion dollar contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces shortly after they began air attacks against Iraq and occupied Kuwait on January 17. The government has said the amount covers allied spending for the January-March period.

Iraq officially accepted a ceasefire agreement on Sunday, the 46th day after the air attacks were launched.

Kaifu said that the final decision on how to disburse the money, approved last week by the House of Representatives, will be made by the Gulf Peace Fund administered jointly by Japan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The Riyadh-based GCC consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar.

The House of Councillors is expected to pass the package of bills providing the 9 billion dollar contribution this week.

Kaifu also reiterated his hope that Iraq would rejoin international society, but said that it is up to the Iraqi people to determine the future of President Saddam Husayn.

Citizens Sue To Block Aid to Allies in Gulf

OW0403115491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A total of 850 citizens went to court Monday in an attempt to block the Japanese Government from providing the 9 billion dollars in additional aid it has pledged to the allied forces that forced Iraq out of Kuwait in the Persian Gulf war.

Fighting came to a halt February 28, but the aid, pledged January 24, is still being debated in the House of Councillors. The money cleared the House of Representatives last week.

The plaintiffs requested a symbolic 10,000 yen each in compensation from the government, contending that aid to the multinational forces violates Japan's Constitution, which forbids the use of force to settle international disputes.

The plaintiffs said their suits, filed with the Tokyo and Osaka district courts, are aimed at blocking the Diet from approving the aid.

They are also seeking an order barring the government from sending military planes to evacuate refugees.

The government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has proposed sending Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) planes to the Middle East on refugee evacuation missions, saying that the C-130 planes will be dispatched if there is a request from international organizations to do so.

The plaintiffs said they expect more concerned citizens to file similar suits in Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Aichi and Hyogo Prefectures.

The plaintiffs argue that contributing funds to the U.S.-led forces that fought Iraq and the dispatch of ASDF aircraft to a region of conflict would amount to Japanese participation in the Gulf war.

These government policies violate the Constitution, infringing on the people's right to a peaceful life, the plaintiffs said.

Civic groups in Tokyo, Nagoya, Kobe and Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, have previously filed suits against plans to dispatch the ASDF aircraft. The Kobe district court turned down the suit there, saying administrative decisions cannot be stopped by injunction.

Takeshita Says Aid to Gulf Must Be Untied

OW0403113291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Monday proposed that Japan extend aid for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged Persian Gulf region independent of its existing official development assistance (ODA) program.

Japan's reconstruction aid should be "untied"—with no conditions that Japanese products are purchased or companies awarded any contract because of the aid money, said Takeshita, one of the most powerful politicians of the country's ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

Takeshita, lecturing at a Tokyo hotel, said Japanese aid might be open to international criticism if it is perceived the country is trying to profit from the seven-month Gulf crisis.

The former prime minister, who was instrumental in making Toshiki Kaifu prime minister two years ago, also said the LDP and two centrist opposition parties need soon to spell out concrete measures for Japan's assistance to United Nations peacekeeping efforts.

The LDP, Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party, agreed last November to establish a new organization, separate from the Self- Defense Forces (SDF), to provide personnel assistance to U.N. peacekeeping operations abroad.

The three parties reached the accord November 8 as the House of Representatives killed a government proposed bill to send SDF personnel, transport aircraft and supply ships to join in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Takeshita said he did not think Japan will be able to contribute to overseeing the ceasefire in the Persian Gulf war. But he said that last November's tripartite agreement on peacekeeping efforts needed to be finalized quickly.

"We will need to discuss whatever structure and organization (Japanese cooperation would take)," Takeshita said.

Referring to a fear among Southeast Asian nations that Gulf aid may lead to a cut in Japan's ODA funds to, Takeshita said, "Gulf restoration aid and ODA funds must be established separately and while granting ODA funds, we must pour our efforts into the reconstruction of the Gulf.

"We need to place the aid in an international foundation or reconstruction bank if they are established and, at the same time, regarding the problems of bilateral aid, all of it should be untied.

"If we don't do it this way, we are going to be showered with criticism about being economic animals pursuing profits from the crisis, even if the payments are made with some difficulties," he said.

The founder of the LDP's biggest faction said there should be no limitations on how the Gulf aid will be used to avoid criticism that Japan is trying to promote its economy through the restoration assistance.

JCP Chairman Stresses Nonmilitary Aid

OW0103194491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Chairman of Japan Communist Party [JCP] Fuwa held a news conference today in Kobe where he was visiting on the first portion of a stumping tour aimed at unified local elections. During the news conference, he stressed that Japan should actively contribute to postwar reconstruction, but only in nonmilitary ways.

Speaking on postwar reconstruction measures in the Gulf region, the chairman stressed that the Japanese Government must speak from its own views on the establishment of a new international order for peace in the Middle East. He added that Japan, at the same time, should actively make contributions, but only in nonmilitary fields, in accordance with its peace constitution.

On cooperation with peacekeeping activities of the United Nations, Mr. Fuwa also said Japan does not need to make new laws but should cooperate only in nonmilitary fields.

DSP Proposes Gulf Reconstruction Plan

OW0103144991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) on Friday announced a plan for Japan's contributions to postwar restoration and peacekeeping operations in the Middle East.

Keigo Ouchi, chairman of Japan's fourth ranked opposition party, handed the five-point plan to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu after giving a briefing to reporters at a press conference in the Diet building.

Citing the 1948-52 Marshall Plan established to rehabilitate Europe after World War II, Ouchi said the DSP plan for the Gulf calls for the government to establish a fund for economic reconstruction of war-torn nations in the region.

Responding to the proposal, Kaifu told Ouchi that such a fund will be needed "sooner or later," but he wants to wait a little longer to see how other nations participating in the Allied force will react to such a plan.

The 9 billion dollars in additional aid Japan has pledged for the U.S.-led Allied forces should be partially appropriated to the fund, Ouchi said.

The DSP chairman also said the plan calls for the government to set up a semi-governmental corps consisting of experts from various fields to help promote postwar restoration in the region.

As for environmental problems caused by oil spills and burning oil wells, the DSP proposes sending a governmental research team to the affected areas and setting up a cabinet-level meeting on the matter.

Stressing the need for Japan's positive participation in U.N. peacekeeping activities, the party also calls for revising Japan's Self-Defense Forces law to enable the dispatch of noncombat Self- Defense Forces abroad for relief operations.

Ministry Cautious on Aid to Israel

OW0103131691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—The Japanese Foreign Ministry on Friday reacted cautiously to a report that U.S. Government officials have expressed hope that Japan will extend economic assistance to Israel to facilitate restoration work in the Jewish state after the end of the Persian Gulf war.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters that the ministry has not independently confirmed the report and has not received a request from the Israeli Government for such assistance.

U.S. officials reportedly said that Washington expects Japan to provide economic aid for Israel, damaged by Iraq's missile attacks.

The officials said that the U.S. and Japan will play a leading role in establishing a Middle East development and restoration bank. They also said that Washington hopes that Tokyo will mediate a dialogue between the United States and Iran to help create a new order in the region.

Japan has never given economic assistance to Israel and has maintained a generally pro-Arab foreign policy.

WHO Chief Tells KYODO of Iraqi Need for Aid

OW0203135391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] New York, March 2 KYODO—The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) called on Saturday for emergency humanitarian assistance to Iraq, which he said faces the threat of major epidemics.

WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Iraq is facing serious public health problems because some major water purification plants and hospitals have been crippled by the Persian Gulf war.

Nakajima, who is Japanese, pointed to the possibility of epidemics of diseases such as cholera and dysentery raging through the country, saying most of the Iraqi people are drinking untreated river water.

A joint mission from WHO and the U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) found in mid-February that Iraqis were consuming only 1,000 calories a day, about half the recommended intake.

With a shortage of powdered milk, many infants are in danger of death from acute malnutrition, Nakajima quoted the report as saying.

Nakajima pointed to the need for supplies of pure water, vaccines, and powdered milk.

He put a price tag of about 10 million dollars on the project.

Nakajima said he hopes that part of the 18 million dollars Japan provided for the office of the U.N. disaster relief coordinator—some of which has not been spent—will be available for the project.

Ambassador: Aid to Iraq Possible

OW0203080791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0754 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japanese Ambassador to Iraq Kunio Katakura said here Saturday he believes Japan could extend humanitarian and reconstruction aid to Iraq, but the country must first have a peace-seeking government.

"Japan, which also experienced defeat in a war, could contribute to humanitarian help for war victims and reconstruction efforts," Katakura said.

As an example, he said Japan can assist in rebuilding infrastructure and technology in many fields as it did in the past.

But he stressed the need for the Iraqi people to ensure their government is a peaceful one.

On alleged criticism against Japan for not having shed any sweat or blood in the course of actions by the multinational forces to free Kuwait, the ambassador said Japan, which has a war-renouncing Constitution, should not underestimate its financial support.

Japan contributed 2 billion dollars to the allied forces and another 2 billion dollars in economic assistance to Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan, which were severely affected by the Persian Gulf war. The Diet is also discussing the government's 9 billion dollar pledge for aid to the allied forces.

Katakura predicted that despite the Gulf war's end, the region would be unstable as long as the Palestinian issue, the rich-poor gap, and anti-U.S. Islamic fundamementalism among Arabs remain.

In the postwar era, he said, the six Gulf Cooperation Council member nations, Egypt, and Syria would take the initiative in the region, adding that Iran, which stayed neutral in the war, would be important as a counterpower to Iraq.

Katakura indicated Japan would demand compensation from Iraq for detaining more than 200 Japanese in Iraq and Kuwait following its invasion of the emirate on August 2.

Foreign Minister Summarizes Plans for Gulf Aid

OW0403065091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0627 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama indicated Monday that Japan is ready to send doctors to Kuwait to help the country combat cholera, which is feared to be spreading there.

Nakayama told a meeting of senior officials of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party that 127 doctors have been enlisted for emergency medical aid overseas and they could be dispatched to Kuwait any time pending requests.

Nakayama also then announced a plan to form a project team aimed at tackling environmental pollution stemming from oil spills in the Persian Gulf, with Transport, Fisheries, and other government ministries and agencies concerned.

A team will be sent to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states affected by the oil slick if the need arises, though within the budget framework of the semigovernmental Japan International Cooperation Agency, the foreign minister added.

More on Environmental Mission

OW0103132691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Japan is preparing a technical mission to Persian Gulf nations to help assess and tackle environmental damage brought about by the Gulf war, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

The team, to comprise government officials, experts and engineers, is set to visit such nations as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, officials said, adding that Kuwait may not be included in the mission itinerary.

The Environment Agency, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and Transport Ministry are also involved in the government cooperation plan.

The schedule and personnel selection are currently being arranged and actual departure will be in a week or so, the officials said.

The mission's tasks will include assessment of the damage caused by huge oil spills and continuing oil well fires to fishery resources and wildlife and the mapping out of possible cooperation by Japan.

Japan has a good deal of experience in the fighting of air and water pollution which could be used in dealing with the man-made disasters in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told the Diet Friday that the government will also study the dispatch of a disaster relief medical team to devastated Kuwait as part of its efforts to make a personnel contribution.

Officials are mulling the use of the law concerning dispatch of disaster relief teams if requested by a related government or an international body, even though the law was not drafted for directly saving war victims.

The ministry officials said the use of the law covers the provision of medical care for epidemic victims, who are secondary victims in war-torn regions.

A senior ministry official said the Social Democratic Party and some other opposition parties are also basically in support of the idea.

Another official said 120 or so doctors and scores of nurses are registered for such teams and a few of them have previously been sent to earthquake-hit Iran and the Philippines.

Volunteers To Work With Refugees in Syria

OW0103145691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Three Japanese men are set to go to Syria soon as volunteer workers under United Nations relief projects for Persian Gulf war evacuees, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Urban design engineering expert Noboru Morimoto, 33, of Niiza, Saitama Prefecture, Katsuyoshi Fukai, 34, of Nakano, Nagano Prefecture, an agricultural economy expert, and Hiromi Suzuki, 39, also of Saitama Prefecture, an automobile fixture expert, will go to Damascus. Morimoto and Fukai are set to leave Japan next week while Suzuki will follow later, officials said.

They will be put under the control of the Geneva-based United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and will get assignments either for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Program (WFP), or the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Syrian capital.

The three all have previous experience of serving in Africa and the Middle East as volunteers.

Bank Denies Rumor of Dollar Buying for Gulf Aid

OW0403113091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO— A Bank of Japan (BOJ) official on Monday denied a rumor that the central bank has already started buying dollars to raise part of Japan's 9 billion dollar additional contribution to the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

Earlier in the day, the rumor that the central bank has bought some 1 billion dollars on the Tokyo foreign exchange market as part of the 9 billion yen aid fueled the dollar's surge against the yen. The dollar finished Tokyo trading at 135.35 yen, up 1.10 yen from last Friday.

Shipping Firms, Unions Lift Ban on Gulf Route

OW0103141491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Japanese shipowners and the concerned unions agreed Friday to lift the remaining ban on Japanese-crewed and -flagged vessels sailing north of latitude 27.30 degrees north, industry officials said.

The decision, to take effect at midnight Saturday local time, will allow such vessels to call at Iran's main oil export base, Kharg Island, they said.

The shipowners' Labor Relations Agency and the All-Japan Seamen's Union imposed a ban on Japanese-crewed ships and vessels of Japanese registry sailing west of longitude 52 degrees east after the expiry of the United Nations deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait on January 15.

The ban was later eased to allow vessels to sail to ports in east Qatar and Saudi Arabia to load oil and gas.

Institute Researches Gulf Rebuilding Costs

OW0103150891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1425 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—The cost of rebuilding the war-ravaged countries in the Persian Gulf will be around 30 billion dollars and will have little impact on the global economy, Japan Research Institute Ltd. said Friday.

The argument flies in the face of those economists who maintain that the cost of reconstruction could run as high as 300 billion dollars following the fierce bombardment of Iraq and Kuwait by U.S.- led multinational forces.

The Sumitomo Bank-affiliated think tank based its argument in part on the assumption that the rehabilitation of Iraq would be put off until that nation's political situation stabilizes.

Japan Research also maintained that the cost of rebuilding Kuwait could be largely financed by its own rich assets.

The institute said it was highly unlikely that special demand created by reconstruction would boost the U.S. economy.

Since the current U.S. recession has been caused by such structural factors as the slump in the housing and financial industries and the towering U.S. budget deficit, it would be difficult for a U.S. recovery to be fueled solely by "special demand," according to a senior official at the institute.

He challenged the view of U.S. Government economists who predicted a recovery in the July-September quarter.

The slackening Asian economies, heavily reliant on exports to the U.S., could drag down Japanese exports.

These forces may in turn conspire to prolong the world economy's period of consolidation, institute officials warned.

MITI To Spend 10 Billion Yen on Project

OW0403114591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Monday it will launch a 10-year 10 billion yen project in the fiscal year starting next month to develop a high-technology "supermaterial."

Ministry officials said the aim is to develop a material that is more resistant to heat and chemical erosion than plastics, a better conductor of electricity than metal, extremely light, corrosion- resistant, and causes little pollution.

MITI hopes the project, which will be launched in fiscal 1991, starting April 1, will develop a high molecular compound consisting mainly of silicon—the material used for making computer chips.

If the project is successful, the technology to be developed will make it possible to synthesize, for instance, a material that is as transparent and heat-resistant as glass, but far easier to process, and a good conductor of electricity as well.

The technology that is expected to come out of the project will find a wide range of industrial applications in such fields as solar batteries, construction materials, semiconductors, automobiles, and the aerospace industry, the MITI officials said.

Silicon belongs to the same atomic family in the chemical periodic table as carbon. It is the second most abundant element in the earth's crust.

It is relatively easy to synthesize a variety of compounds of silicon.

But unlike carbon, which is also used as a basis for work aimed at developing new materials, silicon is a good conductor of electricity and is structurally stronger than carbon—the features that make the element a superb matter for making multifunction high molecular materials.

The ministry plans to draw up a blueprint for the project in April through one of its advisory panels, they said.

The project will initially be focused on the development of a material that has 10 to 1,000 times better conductivity than most metals and is suitable for producing engineering plastics with extraordinary strength and heat-resistance, the officials said.

The actual research work under the scheme will be conducted in some of MITI's research centers, including the national chemical laboratory for industry and the research institute for polymers and textiles, they said.

The ministry will also seek the assistance of private institutes for part of the research, according to the officials.

North Korea

'Danger' of Renewed Hostilities in Gulf Cited

SK0403061391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] According to foreign news reports, the military action in the Gulf region was temporarily suspended on 28 February. Though the possibility of realizing a complete cease-fire does exist, there is still the danger of a resumption of hostilities.

On 28 February, Baghdad radio said that although Iraq paid dearly for having confronted the United States and its allied forces, Iraq will have to pay an even greater price if it submits to them. Therefore, Iraq has not surrendered. The Palestinian issue, which the imperialists and Zionists have intentionally forgotten and concealed in the dust for the past 40 years, is now brought to the front of global affairs. As a result, Iraq's victory is clear.

According to the Iraqi News Agency [INA], Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz stated on 1 March that despite the U.S. announcement on suspending military action, the U.S.-led multinational force—comprised of infantry troops and a number of tanks—has assembled in various places along the road between Al-Nasiriyah on the western border of Iraq and Samawah, and on the roads to the south of Al-Nasiriyah. He noted that the troops are being reinforced to an even greater extent than before the military action was suspended.

Aziz denounced the multinational force, claiming it has launched attacks and is perpetrating provocative acts, all of which run counter to the cease-fire. He also claimed that U.S. airplanes are continuously flying in Iraqi territorial airspace.

He pointed out: Iraq considers this an infringement on the cease-fire. The U.S. troops should immediately withdraw from our territory and discontinue all provocative acts. Such acts by the United States were prompted by dirty [toroun] intentions and show that the United States is not observing their promise.

Foreign news reports state that the U.S.-led multinational force occupied various areas in southern Iraq. On 1 March, a spokesman of the U.S. forces in the Gulf area pointed out that the U.S. Armed Forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq are placed under combat readiness to resume the attack if necessary.

According to a BBC report, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney hinted on 1 March that U.S. troops will remain in southern Iraq until progress is seen in fulfilling all UN resolutions pertaining to Iraq.

It has been learned that on 28 February, U.S. President George Bush met with the presidential assistant for national security, the defense secretary, and the secretary of state to discuss issues dealing with affairs in the Gulf area after the war.

In an interview with French television on 1 March, the UN secretary general said that he cannot agree with overthrowing Iraq, a member nation of the United Nations, and that he is opposed to the goal of implementing sanctions against Iraq if they are designed to overthrow the Iraqi regime.

On 1 March, U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney said that if Iraq does not accept conditions of demand of the multinational forces, including the release of the prisoners of war, it will suffer further attack by U.S. forces and U.S. forces will resume the air offensive.

In an interview with CNN television on 1 March, the senior U.S. presidential assistant stated that U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who will visit the Middle East soon, will discuss the issue of deploying some U.S. heavy equipment in this region to prevent a crisis.

In an interview with the French paper LE FIGARO on 1 March, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the suspension of military action did not remove Iraq's threat against Israel. He raved that the multinational force is seeking a way of overthrowing the Iraqi regime.

According to a report from UN Headquarters, a conference of five Standing Committee member nations was held on 1 March in the UN Security Council to discuss the issue of realizing the cease-fire in the Gulf war and other issues on the Gulf crisis.

KPA General Supports Mobilization Order

SK0403075391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2310 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Upon receiving the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] to assume a full combat mobilization posture in order to cope with the prevailing situation, KPA soldiers are filled with a burning determination to firmly defend outposts in the air, on land, and on the sea of our benevolent socialist fatherland.

KPA Major General Comrade Yi Sok-kun said as follows:

[Begin Yi recording] Upon receiving the order of the KPA supreme commander, the hearts of the officers and men of our Air Force are burning with the endless passion of loyalty to the party and to the leader and with a sense of hatred for the enemy.

In defiance of the unanimous denunciation of the entire Korean people and the world's peaceloving people, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean warmongers again staged the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, thus bringing dark clouds of nuclear calamities over the heads of our people.

We cannot repress our indignation against the enemy's maneuvers to block the road to peace and peaceful reunification, for which all the Korean people are ardently aspiring, and to erase our Republic.

Furthermore, we are grinding our teeth in indignation over the filthy and alarming move to use the void caused by our voluntary cutting of 100,000 troops for impure objectives.

The enemy should not miscalculate the situation. Our People's Army is the army of heroes who, under the great leadership of the respected leader, a legendary hero, smashed 1 million troops of the Japanese imperialist army and crushed the allied forces of world reactionaries headed by the U.S. imperialists.

Our People's Army is an indomitable and invincible army which is prepared as the one-is-a-match-for-100 fighting force by heartily accepting the most proud slogan of faith: Let us, the entire Army, fight under the guidance of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great genius of military affairs [widaehan kunsaui yongje], by dedicating our whole lives to the great leader [suryong]!

We do not want war, but we are not afraid of war. If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets finally advance along the road of aggression, our one-is-a-match-for-100 soldiers of the People's Air Force will repel them, rising like surging waves, while assuming full combat mobilization.

As we opened in the 1950's the road of decline for the U.S. imperialist enemy who sneaked upon us, we will drive the enemy who sneaked upon us this time into the hell of death, just as we did the enemy's large-size EC-121 spy aircraft.

By so doing, we will again demonstrate to the entire world the majestic shape of our People's Army as the army of the great leader and as the army of the party. [end recording]

Soldiers Voice Support for Mobilization Order

SK0103155191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 1 Mar 91

["Soldiers of KPA (Korean People's Army) and KPSF (Korean People's Security Forces) and Members of Worker-peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards Determined To Be Fully Ready for Combat Mobilization"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 1 (KCNA)—The soldiers of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and the Korean People's Security Forces [KPSF] and members of the Worker-peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards, upon receiving the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, evinced their determination to keep themselves in full combat readiness and defend the socialist system of our country and the gains of revolution.

NODONG SINMUN and other newspapers here give publicity to letters carrying their resolutions.

Kim U-chang, an officer of the Korean People's Army, said:

The "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged by the enemy is an unpardonable criminal act plunging again the situation on the Korean Peninsula into a perilous vortex.

If the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean military fascist clique light the train of a war, we officers and men of the KPA will fight a heroic fight with the enemy, staking the honor of chuche Korea, and drive him to destruction.

We will keep ourselves in a posture of combat mobilisation with a firm revolutionary faith and unshakable conviction that as long as we are under the [word indistinct] leadership of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the ever-victorious iron-willed briliant commander and great military strategist, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, we can drive back any formidable aggressors in the world.

Yi Hong-su, an officer of the KPSF, said:

We soldiers of the KPSF will keep ourselves in a posture of full combat preparedness in hearty response to the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and further strengthen the combat and political training to defend the gains of our socialism like an impregnable fortress.

All the posts of the homeland guarded by us are fully prepared to smash in time any provocation of the enemy.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group unleash a new war, we will shower a barrage of a thousand-fold fiercer fire and demonstrate our invincible strength once again.

Kim Yong-kil, a member of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards of the factory where Comrade Pak Su-pom works, had this to say:

The entire members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards of our factory who received the order of respected comrade supreme commander will safeguard the gains of socialism like an impregnable fortress with a hammer in one hand and a rifle in the other.

We will keep ourselves in a posture of full combat mobilisation so that we may take an emergency action any moment, while maintaining the upswing in carrying out the quotas assigned to the factory for the present.

Yi Yong-chol, a member of the Young Red Guards, said:

We are the youth of the new generation who have grown up in the bosom of the party. The firm determination to share the destiny with the party in any adversity is the faith and will of our hot- blooded young people reared in the embrace of the party.

If the enemy ignite a reckless war, we the Young Red Guards will readily turn out in the sacred war to defend the party and the leader, the homeland and the people together with the heroic People's Army, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the entire people and clear the land of the enemy for good and all.

Commentary on Order for Combat Preparedness

SK0203021391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Legitimate Self-Defense Step"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] issued an order to the Army, Navy, and Air Force of the KPA, all units of the Korean Security Forces, and members of the Worker-Peasant Militia and Red Youth Guards to assume a thoroughgoing combat mobilization posture with heightened revolutionary vigilance in connection with the danger of a new war which is being practically created in our country.

This is a legitimate self-defense step to cope with the new war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

In defiance of unanimous protests and denunciation of all Korean people and peace-loving people of the world, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets finally staged this year, too, the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, thus leading the situation in our country to the brink of war.

Kicking off the Team Spirit-91 war exercise from late January, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets dragged massive troops, nuclear war equipment, and lethal weapons from the U.S. mainland and Pacific region into South Korea and moved and deployed them in areas along the Military Demarcation Line. In addition, by mobilizing combat aircraft including F-16 nuclear-loaded fighter- bombers, they are staging each day aerial strike exercises which are aimed at a northward invasion.

The situation prevailing in South Korea today is something that can be seen only on the eve of war. There is no guarantee that the joint landing operation, aerial mobilization strike operation, river-crossing operation, and commando operation, which are being staged during the period of the Team Spirit war exercise, will not turn into a real war.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have already completed their preparations for armed aggression against our Republic while staging each year the Team Spirit joint military exercise since 1976. Taking this into consideration, the danger of this exercise is even greater.

In particular, as the world officially recognized, the Team Spirit joint military exercise is thoroughly aggressive in view of its nature and content, and is a preliminary and test nuclear war designed to launch a preemptive strike on the northern half of our Republic by taking it as the target of attack.

Therefore, if the Team Spirit war exercise turns into a real war, it will easily be a nuclear war, and existence of our people itself will be endangered.

Under such a critical [wikuphan] condition, the KPA supreme commander issued an order to all units of the KPA and Korean Security Forces and to members of the Worker-Peasant Militia and Red Youth Guards to assume a combat mobilization posture.

Today the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, unsheathing a sword, are running amok to conquer us. At this time, we cannot watch this idly.

We treasure peace and do not want war, but we will never beg for peace. We have repeatedly demanded that a nonaggression declaration be adopted between the North and South to realize durable peace and peaceful reunification of the nation and that the Team Spirit joint military exercise be suspended.

We even made a flexible proposal that if the South side cannot totally suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise, it should suspend it even for two or three years while the North-South high-level talks are underway. This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets finally began the Team Spirit-91 war exercise, thus running counter to the aspirations and desire of our people.

Because of the rascals' reckless war maneuvers, all forms of dialogue, including the North-South high-level talks which gave great expectations to all fellow countrymen, have fallen into a grave crisis, and our patient peace-loving efforts are faced with a challenge.

We cannot expect peace from those who are dashing along the road of war, not peace, nor can we sit with those who are seeking confrontation, not dialogue. This is clear to everyone.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should not miscalculate our peace-loving efforts as an expression of weakness. It is our people's firm will to respond to the full-scale war with a full-scale war.

The U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group should look straight at the reality and should not run wild recklessly. They should immediately suspend the aggressive Team Spirit-91 war exercise. Our people and our revolutionary armed forces will closely watch the rascals' new war provocation maneuvers with heightened vigilance.

Workers Support 'Posture of Combat Mobilization'

SK0203050791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—Loud voices resolutely denouncing the criminal "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises rang out from the rallies of the employees of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, the Wonsan Shipyard, the April 3 Factory, the Kaesong Textile Factory, the Sunchon Cement Complex and the Munpyong Smeltery which were held recently .

Expressed at the rallies was full support to the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army to take a posture of combat mobilization in face of the new aggressive war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

The speakers bitterly denounced the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique for having driven the North-South high- level talks into a perilous state and bringing the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war by staging the reckless aggressive war exercises.

Saying that the moves of war and confrontation only precipitate the self-destruction of the war maniacs, the speakers strongly urged the U.S. imperialists to stop immediately the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" and go home with all the forces of aggression from South Korea and nuclear weapons.

The speakers stressed that the working class and other people of the northern half of the Republic will be in full combat preparedness to smash the new war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. and South Korean authorities.

Media Comment on Team Spirit Military Exercises

Operation Termed 'Offensive Action'

SK0203063891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "A War Exercise Which Has Entered a Grave Stage"]

[Text] According to military sources, in order to conduct the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, aggressive military forces and operational equipment are introduced into South Korea from the U.S. mainland and its overseas bases.

Deploying the aggressive military forces and operational equipment around the Military Demarcation Line, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are running wild in conducting the various types of war exercises.

On 26 February, the U.S. imperialists introduced into Kunsan Air Base C-141 transport planes carrying aggressive military forces and operational equipment, which will be mobilized into the Team Spirit- 91 joint military exercise. They deployed various formations of F- 16 and FA-18 fighter-bombers and assault planes into Osan and Kunsan Air Bases from overseas bases.

In the meantime, on the same day, the South Korean puppets deployed ground troops on a large scale into the Uijongbu and Pochon districts. They run wild in conducting strike exercises for northward invasion in combination with the formations of F-16 and F- 4 fighter-bombers.

In addition, on 28 February, to successfully carry out a river- crossing operation to be conducted in the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the puppet troops committed the provocative war exercise called a river-crossing operation.

Saying that the river-crossing operation is a large three-dimensional mobile operation which is aimed at overcoming river obstacles in a predetermined time and at making a breakthrough to attack the enemy's camp, the heads of the puppet army incited the fever of war.

The situation prevailing in South Korea shows that the Team Spirit-91 war exercise is entering a graver stage. This is a vicious challenge to our people and the world's peace-loving people, who demand that the Team Spirit war exercise be stopped at once.

Upholding the Korean People's Army supreme commander's order for full combat readiness against the reckless war exercise by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, all the people of the northern half of the Republic rise as one man to struggle to defend the socialist fatherland and noble revolutionary achievements. In addition, they keenly watch over the rascals' war moves with a high degree of revolutionary vigilance.

The people of the northern half of the Republic hold rallies at various places, severely denouncing the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for conducting the Team Spirit-91 war exercise moves. They strongly demand that the exercise be stopped at once.

Nonetheless, instead of stopping the Team Spirit-91 war exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets more frantically conduct the exercise, and lead it to a grave stage. This is a criminal act that cannot be tolerated.

Even though the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets conduct the Team Spirit-91 war exercise to attack the northern half of the Republic, they rave that this is a defensive exercise. This is nothing but sophistry to cover up their aggressive attempts.

Judging from the example of the river-crossing operation that the rascals conducted this time, it is evident that the Team Spirit-91 war exercise is one to attack the North. The river-crossing operation itself is for attack, not for defense.

By rapidly crossing various rivers flowing east and west in our country in an emergency, the rascals are trying to swallow up the northern half of the Republic with a snap of the fingers.

Proceeding from such an intention, the rascals attach great importance to the river-crossing operations and have conducted them every year. Thus, they also conducted a practice river-crossing exercise this year.

In addition, the puppets themselves admit that the river-crossing operation is one for attack. When the heads of the puppet army conducted an example of a river-crossing exercise, they raved that the river-crossing operation is a large three-dimensional mobile operation to make a breakthrough to attack the enemy's camps.

If the Team Spirit-91 war exercise is a defensive exercise, then, why is it important to make a breakthrough to attack the enemy's camps?

To everyone that has elementary military common sense, it is evident that making a breakthrough to attack the enemy's camps is an offensive action.

The U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ring cannot cover up the aggressive and offensive nature of the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise.

Facts show that the Team Spirit-91 war exercise may overflow to a real war. In particular, an emergency wartime system is declared throughout South Korea, and all human and material resources are under wartime mobilization conditions. Therefore, the danger of the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise is very high.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, however, should look straight at the reality and act with discretion.

Our people value peace, but are never afraid of a war.

Those who enjoy fire cannot escape the doom of the fire moth. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise at once, and pull all aggression forces and war means out of South Korea.

Paper Links Exercises to World Peace

SK0203113191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—Now is the time for the United States to show in deeds that it wants peace, instead of paying lip-service to it, and the world is following the attitude of the United States, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

The world people now express deep apprehensions for the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, saying that they may trigger off a world-wide thermo-nuclear war, it notes, and continues:

Only when peace and security settle down on the Korean Peninsula can the world peace and security be guaranteed.

It is because, above all, the Korean Peninsula is the most dangerous hotbed of a nuclear war in the world.

South Korea is the biggest nuclear forward base of U.S. imperialism in the Far East, where more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons including neutron bombs are amassed.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises being staged in and around South Korea every year are a preliminary war and a test nuclear war aimed at a pre-emptive strike at the northern half of Korea.

"Pacex" and "Rimpac", the unprecedented-in-scale multinational military manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and their satellite states and puppets in the expanse of the Pacific in recent years, are also nuclear war exercises to cover "contingencies" on the Korean Peninsula.

Even in case of an armed conflict in other regions the U.S. reactionary ruling quarters try to use it as a pretext for nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists are making it a fait accompli to provoke a nuclear war in Korea and stepping up the preparations for it. They seek in this to invade our Republic with South Korea as the springboard and establish domination over the Asian continent and, furthermore, over the whole world.

Hence, the U.S. imperialists' scheme to provoke another Korean War is a factor threatening security in Asia and the rest of the world.

The security of the Korean Peninsula is directly linked to world security also because the U.S. imperialists regard the Korean Peninsula as a strategic vantage in making a breakthrough for a new world war.

They consider it very favorable to expand a nuclear war from the Korean Peninsula.

If a war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula, it will easily spread to Asia and the Pacific and, furthermore escalate into a worldwide one.

Defusing military tensions on the Korean Peninsula fraught with the greatest danger of nuclear war in the world and removing the danger of war is a precondition for world peace and security as a whole.

In order to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula and prevent the danger of war, it is imperative to remove its root cause.

It is important, above all, to get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea.

With the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, the root cause of nuclear war, left intact in South Korea neither peace on the Korean Peninsula nor world peace and security can be expected.

In order to relax tensions on the Korean Peninsula and avert the danger of war, it is necessary to establish a nuclear-free, peace zone on the Korean Peninsula.

Paper Views 'Hysteric War Racket'

SK0303090191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—The South Korean rulers mobilized the puppet infantry units bearing the provocative names "Ssangyong", "Hwarang" and "Igija" in a military exercise called "Exhibition River-Crossing Operation" as part of the "Team Spirit 91" joint manoeuvres.

Commenting on this, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The South Korean puppets do not bother to conceal that the "Exhibition River-Crossing Operation" is a war game staged in advance for a "successful river-crossing operation" to be held with the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in the full-fledged practical stage. This tells us that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets intend to convert the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres into a real war.

They are showing ill-boding military moves from the deployment stage before entering the full-fledged practical stage. This suggests that the "Team Spirit 91" will be a hideous action fraught with unprecedented danger.

With the "exhibition river-crossing operation" ahead, the commander of the "Ssangryong" unit of the puppet army openly blared that the "river-crossing operation" would be a "large-scale three- dimensional mobile operation" to overcome hurdles in the planned time and "make a breakthrough for an attack on the enemy position". This means that the puppets themselves confessed that all the operations including the "river-crossing operation" by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are attack operations against the North.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are talking nonsense to conceal the aggressive nature and the danger of the joint military exercises. But, it only brings to bolder relief their ugly nature as the harasser of peace and warmaniacs.

We are following with a high degree of vigilance the hysteric war racket of the war-thirsty elements who are bringing the dark clouds of a nuclear war every moment with the stupid play with fire.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets should not run amok but act with discretion.

'Aggressive Asia-Pacific Strategy'

SK0403121991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0525 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN on March 3 carried a signed article denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises as a product of the aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy of the U.S. imperialists and a dangerous war provocation move to contain the DPRK by strength.

The article says: What the U.S. imperialists seek in the Asia- Pacific region is chiefly to contain socialist countries and progressive forces by strength and establish their domination over it. In attaining this aim, they attach special importance to South Korea. It is not fortuitous that they declared South Korea a frontline area in their strategy and keep hold on it as an anti-communist fort, as the biggest nuclear forward base in the Far East. They are scheming to establish their domination over this region by bringing our Republic under their control with South Korea as a forward base and, furthermore, containing the socialist countries. South Korea is precisely a forward area for realising the Asia-Pacific strategy of the U.S. imperialists, and the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises serve as a military lever for the purpose.

The "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres are combined exercises of the three services capable of carrying out a full-blown war. Besides, the U.S. imperialists stage a series of military exercises under such names as "Rimpac", "Pacex" and "joint exercises".

Mobilised annually in the joint military exercises in recent years were more than 200,000 U.S. troops and the puppet army troops, several hundred warships including nuclear-power carriers, submarines and destroyers, over 2,000 planes of various types including B-52 strategic bombers, F-15 and F-16 fighter-bombers, nuclear missiles and other attack means and a large number of tanks and military vehicles.

"Team Spirit" is a war game staged in the frontline area with the support of the U.S. military bases in the Asia-Pacific region. Participating in it are not only the U.S. troops and their equipment in South Korea but also the U.S. troops, warships, planes, missiles, artillery pieces, tanks, armoured vehicles and ammunitions from the U.S. bases in the mainland, Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region.

It is a war gamble to perfect war methods applicable to our Republic and other areas of the Asia-Pacific either in view of its scale or in view of its content.

Various exercises for a strike at the frontline areas and in- depth rear of the DPRK are being staged frantically in South Korea almost every day within the framework of the "Team Spirit".

The "Team Spirit" is a factor which coils up the tensions and increases the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula and it is casting a dark shadow over the situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

If the U.S. imperialists really want peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region, they must take steps, first of all, to relax the situation on the Korean Peninsula which is fraught with the greatest danger of war.

KCNA Reports 27 Feb Aerial Exercises in South

SK0203052491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0438 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command committed a joint air strike exercise against the North as part of the provocative "Team Spirit 91" joint military manoeuvres on Feb. 27, according to military sources.

Involved in this aerial war game in the sky above Kunwi and Sangdong of South Korea were scores of F-16, OA-10 and other fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes of the U.S. forces and the puppet air force.

That day the U.S. imperialists introduced formations of C-130 and C-141 transport planes carrying aggression troops and combat equipment for the "Team Spirit 91" into South Korea from the U.S. mainland and overseas bases and deployed them in operational zones and brought several formations of FA-18 pursuit-assault planes to Osan airfield from Iwakuni base of Japan.

On the same day, they let a KC-135 tanker fly over Kwangju area from Guam in an exercise for mid-air refuelling of 18 F-16 fighter- bombers.

That day they let U-2, RC-12 and other high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes and tactical reconnaissance planes make repeated shuttle flights from the East to the West along the Military Demarcation Line to commit an aerial espionage on targets in the strategical depths and frontline areas of the North.

The aircraft mobilized in war exercises in the sky above South Korea that day totalled more than 600.

In separate development, the South Korean authorities drove a mechanized combined infantry unit to a river-crossing attack exercise, and the socalled "Igija" "Ssangnyong" and "Hwarang" units of the puppet army to a river-crossing exercise as part of the "Team Spirit 91" joint manoeuvres.

U.S. Aerial Exercise, Reconnaissance Reported

SK0303082691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Naval Command staged a joint air strike exercise for a surprise attack on the North on March 1 as part of the adventurous "Team Spirit 91" joint manoeuvres, according to military sources.

That day the U.S. imperialists let fly several formations of AV- 8 VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes in succession over Asan Bay from the Iwakuni base of Japan for an exercise of surprise strike at major coastal targets of the northern half of Korea and swift escape.

On the same day they deployed 10 odd A-10 assault planes to be mobilized in the "Team Spirit 91" in the Osan Airfield from the U.S. mainland and overseas bases and introduced formations of C-130 transport planes and transport ships carrying large forces of three services and combat equipment into the Osan Airfield and Chinhae port and deployed them in operational zones.

They let fly 40 odd F-16 fighter-bombers over Chungju, Woeyondo, Sangdong and Chongju areas for a joint aerial strike exercise against the North in cooperation with several formations of F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers of the puppet airforce within the framework of the "Team Spirit 91".

On the same day the U.S. imperialists let U-2, RC-12, RV-1 and other high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes and army reconnaissance planes make shuttle flights from the east to the west along the Military Demarcation Line for long hours to conduct an intensive aerial espionage on targets in the strategic depths and frontline areas of the North.

The aircraft mobilized in war exercises in the sky above South Korea on March 1 totalled more than 500.

Papers Denounce South's Bid for UN Membership

'Criminal Moves' Instigated by U.S.

SK0203051291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—The Korean people will never allow the South Korean authorities' criminal moves to perpetuate the division of the country by abusing the name of the United Nations at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, stressed MINJU CHOSON Friday in a by-lined article.

Noting that the South Korean authorities are still resorting to the "simultaneous or unilateral entry into the U.N.", clinging to the coattails of foreign forces, the author of the article says:

Such criminal moves are aimed to perpetuate the division of the country by realising the "two Koreas" strategy of the U.S. imperialists.

If the North and the South enter the U.N. separately or any side enters it unilaterally under the present situation of division, it will legalize the existence of "two Koreas" internationally, perpetuate the division of the country and aggravate antagonism, distrust, confrontation and tensions between the North and the South.

The question of the U.N. membership of our country is a matter pertaining to our people's right to self-determination. Therefore, it must be solved through a nationwide agreement, an agreement between the North and the South under all circumstances. If the North or the South bring its assertion to the United Nations without discussion with the other side, it will leave the internal affairs of the nation to a bargaining outside the country and it is contrary to the principle of the self-determination of the nation; it will result in gravely impairing the dignity of our nation.

Accordingly, the South Korean authorities' vociferous cries for "simultaneous or unilateral entry into the U.N.", ignoring the will of the nation, is a wanton violation of the U.N. Charter defining the principle of the self-determination of the nation.

'Antinational Criminal Act' by South

SK0203054891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities issued a "statement of the Foreign Ministry" concerning the U.N. membership issue on Feb. 27, announcing that they would make unilateral efforts for U.N. membership at the upcoming 46th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

NODONG SINMUN today denounces this anti-national criminal act of the South Korean authorities openly declaring that they would break down negotiation with the North on the U.N. membership issue and persistently take the road of "two Koreas."

The news analyst says:

The South Korean authorities' announcement that they would make unilateral efforts for U.N. membership is tantamount to declaring a breakdown of negotiations with the North on this problem. This clearly shows that they are not willing to discuss and solve the matters related to the interests of the nation with the North.

What is more serious is that the South Korean authorities are persistently taking the road of separation at a time when the entire fellow countrymen wish reunification.

They try to unilaterally enter the United Nations in a foolish attempt to freeze the division of the country as "two Koreas," leave South Korea as a colony and military base of U.S. imperialism for an indefinite period and thereby extend their anti- popular dictatorial power and realise "unification by prevailing over communism" by the method of amalgamation by absorbing the North with the backing of the "strength" of their U.S. master.

The South Korean rulers had better ponder over the matter and act with discretion.

The North and the South must join the United Nations under a single nomenclature after the reunification of the country through confederation. In case they are to hold U.N. membership even before reunification, they must enter the world body with a single seat.

History and the nation will never tolerate the South Korean authorities' treacherous moves for perpetuating the division of the nation.

Joint N-S Soccer Team Participation Approved

SK0203051191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) on Feb. 28 approved the participation of the North and the South of Korea as a unified team in the 6th World Youth Soccer Championships scheduled in Portugal in June, according to a report from Zurich.

NODONG SINMUN: No 'Personifier of Fascism'

SK0303092191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today brands the No Tae-u ruling group as a personifier of fascism, strangler of democracy and a band of traitors who have turned South Korea into a theatre of fascist rowdyism where the bayonet is all-mighty, a murderous prison and a desolate graveyard of democracy and human rights.

The author of the article says:

No Tae-u never opened his mouth without crying that he would wage a "war against crimes" for a long time and he "will not step back an inch" in expelling "violence, lawlessness and disorder" and the like. This is little short of "declaration of war," threatening that he would wage a "repressive war" against South Korean people of all walks of life calling for independence, democracy and reunification.

Such a repressive order of the authorities has brought to South Korea, in fact, a raging storm of shuddering repression surpassing the dictatorship of "Yusin" and "the Fifth Republic".

The police force, the "Security Planning Board", the "Security Command," the regular puppet armed forces, even "reserve forces" more than 4,600,000 strong have been hurled into the supression of the pro-reunification forces for democracy throughout South Korea.

Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, a visitor to the North, who intended to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the preparatory committee of the South side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for Reunification was put under house arrest, figures of various circles were detained or put on the want list and the office room of Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] was raided and searched by armed police. Students belonging to Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] who turned out in a struggle for the repeal of the "National Security Law" and a stop to the "Team Spirit" military exercises were thrown behind bars in chains. They arrested coed Yim Su-kyong who visited the northern half of Korea and patriots who discussed abroad with us the reunification question and Rev. Hong Kun-su who praised the North's proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo of late.

No Tae-u has volubly talked about "democratic development," "guarantee of human rights," "expulsion of violence and torture," and so on. But this is nothing but a drama to veil his true color as a murderer. It is an unpardonable mockery of and insult to the South Korean people for No Tae-u stained all over with the blood of people to talk about "democracy" and "human rights".

The No Tae-u authorities who stake their lives on the bayonet are making desperate efforts to ensure the security of power by turning South Korea into a fascist closed society more horrible than under the dictatorship of "Yusin" and the "Fifth Republic."

As long as No Tae-u remains in power, the South Korean people cannot but shed blood and cannot evade being victims to the 2nd and 3rd Kwangju incidents.

No Tae-u 'Target of Pungent Denunciation'

SK0303004791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 2 Mar 91

["Hanminjon Urges Nationwide Resistance Against No Tae-u and 'DLP (Democratic Liberal Party)'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—The Propaganda Department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) on February 25 published an indictment throwing a revealing light on the crimes committed by No Tae-u while in office for three years, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

Calling upon the popular masses of all strata to wage an undaunted nationwide resistance against No and the "Democratic Liberal Party," united closely under the banner of anti-U.S., anti- dictatorship democratic resistance, the indictment says:

When the "sixth republic" made its appearance No Tae-u advertised it as a "miracle" in South Korea. But, this has turned out to have been deception and hypocrisy.

The "leftist pro-communist forces" against which No trained his gun as soon as he moved into Chongwadae are none other than the popular masses of all strata including workers, peasants and students who are crying for the right to existence and democracy and the "liberal democratic system" which he committed himself to defend is a colonial military dictatorial system.

After Rev. Mun Ik-hwan's visit to the North, the No ruling group set up a "joint investigation headquarters for public security" and resorted to detention, murder and terrorism against the hardcore figures, democrats and patriotic students of the national democratic movement camp.

Taken aback by the massive action of the patriotic forces demanding independence, democracy and reunification, the U.S. imperialists and the reactionaries framed up the "Democratic Liberal Party," the mainstay of the grand conservative coalition structure, and launched into a wholesale scorched-earth offensive against the democratic patriotic forces after the merger of the three parties.

The number of the political offenders arrested after the inauguration of the "sixth republic" adds up to 4,200, of whom those charged with violation of the "National Security Law" total 1,300. This glaringly reveals the true picture of the inhuman crackdown of unprecedented dimensions on the forces of the national democratic movement by No ruling group.

The indictment says that No, who was trained long ago as a faithful dog of the United States, is a dyed-in-the-wool colonial servant and despicable flunkeyist traitor.

While putting down at the point of the bayonet the desire of the people to join hands with fellow countrymen, notes the indictment, he engaged himself in "prostitute diplomacy" and "entreaty diplomacy," squandering money, to inveigle the East European countries into the "two Koreas" plot.

No's spirit of flunkeyist treachery has been revealed in all its nakedness in his aggressive war moves. Staging the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres every year, he never ceased military exercises all the year round to confront the people and the nation with a hair-trigger nuclear danger.

No Tae-u is indeed a traitor who goes against the desire of the people and the current of the times toward national independence and a mangy dog who closes the door to fellow countrymen and flings the door open to outside forces to glut themselves.

The indictment points out that the No ruling group, while making a splash about "dialogue," "interchange" and "contact," has monopolized North-South dialogue through "unified channel of dialogue" and blocked in every way the independent dialogue, contact, interchange and northern trip of people of different social strata.

After reluctantly responding to multi-channel North-South dialogues, No Tae-u made the dialogues fruitless with delaying tactics and unreasonable arguments and drove the talks to a suspension all at once by such war game as the "Team Spirit."

The indictment exposes the crimes committed by No a dictator and a traitor, in lawless irregularities and injustices already from the days when he ran about with bloodshot eyes to grab power.

The recently exposed Suso housing scandal is a power-backed case of corruption of super class in which power and money were welded together and a typical form of the "sixth republic" irregularities fully revealing the ugly image of No who had never been weary of twanging the harp of "clean politics."

The existence of the people has been ignored and lacerated under the "regime" of No Tae-u who has all along made hypocritical "commitments" and engaged himself in the execution of perfidious policies.

His three-year course of crimes leaves no doubt about his being the executor of the U.S. colonial enslavement policy and an enemy of the nation and people.

No Tae-u, a rare fascist dictator, despicable pro-U.S. flunkeyist traitor and sworn splittist, has made himself a target of pungent denunciation of the entire nation and fellow countrymen who are shaking with anger today and find himself facing a stern judgement by history for his crimes upon crimes.

Kim Il-song Congratulates Gorbachev on Birthday

SK0303083891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Commite of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent warm congratulations to Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on his 60th birthday.

Kil Il-song Sends Greetings to Al-Qadhdhafi

SK0103130791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 1 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September 1 Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, on the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of Jamahiriyah in Libya.

In the message he expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples firmly formed through common struggle for independence against imperialism would further strengthen and develop.

He wished Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people great success in their endeavours to safeguard the national sovereignty and achieve the country's prosperity.

Workers Party Congratulates Mongolian Chairman

SK0403115991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Sunday sent a message of greetings to Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon upon his election as chairman of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

We take this occasion to wish you great success in your responsible work, says the message.

Trade, Other Delegations Leave for China

SK0403120891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—A DPRK Government trade delegation led by Han Su-kil, vice-minister of foreign trade, a delegation of the DPRK Hydro-Meteorological Service led by its director Yi Kon-il and the song and dance ensemble of the Korean People's Army left here today by train for a visit to China.

USSR, PRC, Mongolia Attend Railway Meeting

SK0403121391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—A meeting for agreement on the 1991 trade freight transport program of Asian regional member nations of the Organisation of Railways Cooperation was held here from February 25 to March 4.

Present there were delegations of Mongolia, China, the Soviet Union and the DPRK and a delegate of the organisation.

The meeting reviewed the fulfilment of the program for 1990, discussed practical matters for the fulfilment of the program for 1991 and adopted an appropriate protocol.

South Korea

Spokesman Issues Statement on End of Gulf War

Allied Victory 'Very Fortunate'

SK0203034591 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] In connection with the end of the Gulf war, Government Spokesman Choe Chang-yun issued a statement.

In the statement, he said it is very fortunate that the Gulf war ended with the final victory of the multinational forces led by the United States. He hopes that the people of the Middle East, including Kuwait, will regain a peaceful life, overcoming the sufferings of war as soon as possible.

To efficiently meet the restructuring of the international order after the war in the Gulf, spokesman Choe Chang-yun said that the government will maintain close cooperative relations with friendly countries, including the United States, and that the government will do its best to support the reconstruction work of the Gulf area.

Calls for Structure of Peace

SK0203061591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0538 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea has welcomed the victory of the allies in the Gulf war and called for erecting a "structure of permanent peace and stability" in the region.

"It is hoped that with the cessation of hostilities, a structure of permanent peace and stability will be built in the Gulf region, and the peoples of Kuwait and other Mideast countries will speedily heal the war wounds and regain a peaceful life," Information Minister Choe Chang-yun, who serves as the chief government spokesman, said Saturday.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait, Korea had actively supported the U.N. resolutions and the endeavors of the coalition to enforce them, he said. Though not a member of the United Nations, Korea had discharged "its obligations as an active member of the international community" by "promptly" sending a military medical and air transport units to join the ranks of the coalition.

"The government is determined to concentrate all its energies on effectively dealing with the anticipated formation of a new world order following the termination of war in the Gulf and on supporting postwar reconstruction with the United States and other friendly nations," Choe said.

Official To Discuss Gulf Rebuilding on U.S. Trip

SK0203032591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0231 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—Yi Chong-pin, South Korea's assistant foreign minister for political affairs, will visit Washington March 6-9 to seek a share in Mideast reconstruction, Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday.

Yi will discuss holding the annual Korean-U.S. foreign ministers' talks in the first half of the year and consultations with State Department and Pentagon officials will center on Korea- U.S. amity in the new order in the Middle East and a joint stance regarding security in Northeast Asia.

He will meet with Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Kimmitt; Richard Solomon, assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs; Henry Rowen, assistant secretary of defense; and Karl Jackson, senior director for Asian affairs on the National Security Council.

On his way home, Yi will attend the fifth meeting of the Gulf War Financial Support Committee in Luxembourg March 11 and express the Korean Government's will to actively participate in founding the proposed Mideast Bank for Reconstruction and Development [MEBRD].

Keenly interested in post-Gulf war reconstruction, Korea plans to contribute around 1 percent of the total paid-in capital of the projected bank. The bank is expected to draw a capital of 10 billion or 12 billion U.S. dollars, about equal to that of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Korea has given 78 million dollars, or 0.65 percent of its capital, to the European bank, which is due to open this spring.

A government team, headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Ki- chu, is in the Gulf now, discussing Korea's participation in the MEBRD with Saudi and Kuwaiti officials.

Emir of Kuwait Seeks Help in Rebuilding Country

SK0203060491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0454 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait, has asked South Korea to help rebuild his country, Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-chong said Saturday.

After the emir received President No Tae-u's congratulatory message from the Korean Ambassador to Kuwait So Pyong-yong, he said he was grateful to the Korean Government for sending medical and transportation support and anticipated Korea taking part in the reconstruction of Kuwait, Yi said.

He also asked the Korean envoy to relay his gratitude to No, Yi said.

No congratulated the Kuwaiti ruler Friday on the liberation of his nation and the restoration of its legitimate government following Iraq's defeat.

Egypt To Cooperate in Kuwait's Reconstruction

SK0203061691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0556 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Egypt have agreed to cooperate in rebuilding Kuwait and in establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East, the Korean Foreign Ministry said Saturday. Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Ki-chu and Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid reached the accord in talks Thursday in Cairo, the Ministry said.

A senior Ministry official quoted 'Abd-al-Majid as saying that the Egyptian Government had a high opinion of Korea's contribution to the Gulf war. 'Abd-al-Majid, who is also foreign minister, asked for cooperation in rebuilding projects, he said.

Yi told 'Abd-al-Majid that the Korean Government's formal position is that it will make active efforts for reconstruction, peace and security in the Mideast and urged Cairo to open diplomatic ties with Seoul.

Korea, which does not have formal diplomatic relations with Egypt, set up consulate general in Cairo in 1961. North Korea established ambassadorial relations in 1963.

Officials Discuss Gulf Aid, Energy Saving Drive

SK0203060391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0530 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—The government decided Saturday to cooperate with the private sector in preparing plans for post-war reconstruction in the Middle East, and to gradually ease or lift its energy conservation campaign. The government, in a high-level meeting called by Prime Minister No Chae-pong, also discussed military and diplomatic issues and decided to dispatch presidential envoys to the Middle East in mid-March.

An official announcement is planned by Tuesday on the emergency measures in effect since the Gulf war began, such as reduced operation of private vehicles.

It was also decided to form an inter-ministerial committee, chaired by Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha, to set specifics of rebuilding and other support packages.

Korean Ambassador to Kuwait So Pyong-yong and three members of the embassy staff will soon be sent back to arrange to reopen the embassy, and the government will send presidential envoys to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, officials said.

The Prime Minister ordered a review of this year's economic management plan on the likelihood that crude oil prices may drop below 20 U.S. dollars a barrel. The currrent plan is based on 25 dollars a barrel.

No warned against excessive competition among Korean companies for postwar reconstruction contracts and called for appropriate measures suited to national economic conditions.

Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku told the meeting that future operations of the military air transport team, now stationed in UAE [United Arab Emirates], including their length of stay and possible relocation to Saudi Arabia, would be determined after close consultation with the United States and other relevant countries. Return of the medical team is not immediately possible, Yi reported. The team needs to stay in the Gulf area another three to five months, and thus will need additional medicine and other supplies, he said.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok reported it was under study to fly construction workers and residents back to Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, possibly using chartered planes.

The Finance Ministry plans active participation in the Mideast Bank for Rehabilitation and Development, to be organized by the United States to handle reconstruction projects, Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui said.

Editorial Lauds Bush's Leadership in Gulf War

SK0203010991 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 28 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. President's Leadership"]

[Text] The United States has now opened a new chapter in the history of the world. After winning an unexpected, bloodless victory in the ideological confrontation in the wake of the rapid collapse of the communist system in the Soviet Union and East Europe, the United States is now forcing Iraq's Saddam Husayn, who unwittingly challenged it at the dawn of a new world order, to surrender. There is no question that the United States will become the star player in restructuring the new world order and that all other countries will stand in awe of it. This heralds the arrival of the Pax Americana era, which means that world peace is to be guaranteed by America. The United States is entirely different from that of 25 years ago which suffered a defeat in the Vietnam war. By emerging as an indisputable victor in the war against Iraq following its invasion of Panama and the arrest of Noriega, the United States can now take pride in its power and standing as the one and only superpower in the world after completely freeing itself from the Vietnam syndrome. Now, there can be no question about the United States being the only, unrivaled, global leader.

What has elevated the U.S. standing so much? Although many factors can be cited, U.S. President George Bush's leadership takes most of the credit for having elevated the U.S. standing. Who expected George Bush to demonstrate such formidable leadership? The most taxing endeavor for him during the 1988 presidential election campaign was to overcome the public image of him as a wimp. All the mass media in the United States, including newspapers and television broadcasts, unanimously called candidate Bush a "wimp born with a silver spoon in his mouth." He was conceived as a person without the powerful leadership that a U.S. president should have in handling not only U.S. domestic affairs, but also global affairs. As a result, the leadership quality was at the heart of the issues during the presidential election campaign. His Republican rival Robert Dole, the floor leader of the Republican members of the U.S. Senate, and Michael Dukakis, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, attacked Bush's lack of leadership under the slogan of their strong leadership.

Candidate Bush was also portrayed as a person who had not achieved any accomplishment of his own, anything that was worth remembering, throughout his long career, ranging from chairman of the Republican Party's national convention, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, director of the CIA, ambassador to China, and vice president of the United States. He was also ridiculed as a person who had climbed the rung of power until he reached the office of U.S. vice president by riding on the coattails of others, never working up a sweat himself. According to one school of public opinion, he was elected not because he had the ability worthy of a president, but because his Democratic opponent was too weak. Public opinion did not expect him to be more than an average president.

After taking office at the White House, however, he displayed his ability as President by taking the initiative in reconciling with the Soviet Union and in other diplomatic matters. He has proven that he is his own boss, not a puppet whose wires are pulled by Secretary of State James Baker, his staff officer, as widely believed by the public. The invasion of Panama in December 1989 decisively put his reasonableness and resoluteness to test. Not only has he set up a pro-U.S. government in Panama after toppling the Noriega regime, but he has also brought Noriega to trial at a U.S. court on charges of violating drug-related laws. His war against Iraq was a very dangerous military risk and a complicated and sensitive diplomatic undertaking that makes the invasion of Panama pale.

Relying on his powerful diplomatic ability, he successfully managed to forge a coalition force and began to overwhelm Husayn. He found the key to victory in the war against Husayn in his absolutely superior moral standard. He took a political risk that could cost him his reelection in 1992. He chose a short, blitzkrieg war rather than a drawn-out war carried out in the form of economic sanctions. His judgment was correct. He now enjoys public support of 87 percent, the highest of all times since his low rating in 1988. He can be said to have secured his reelection in 1992. We acutely feel the lack of such leadership in our country, which needs leadership as firm as Bush's.

North Refuses To March Together at Universiade

SK0203011491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0047 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Sapporo, Japan, March 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea will not march side by side in the opening ceremony of the 1991 winter Universiade in Sapporo, Japan, on Saturday as the North has rejected friendly overtures.

Primo Nebiolo, chairman of the Federation Internationale de Sports Universitaire (FISU), suggested Friday in a news conference that the teams walk together at the opening ceremony for their first united appearance since division in 1945.

South Korean team leader Kim Sang-kyom announced acceptance of the proposal Friday night, but Nebiolo was unable to convince the North Koreans to go along. The North Koreans were reported as saying it was impossible for a single nation to be represented by two different flags. North Korea refuses to recognize the government in Seoul.

Nebiolo's proposal called for the chefs de mission, officials and athletes from both sides to enter the Makomanai ice-rink side by side in two lines, following signs carrying the names of their countries and their national names and national flags.

Government To Set Local Elections on Two Dates

SK0203140791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0643 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—The Government and ruling party of South Korea have abandoned attempts to reach a compromise with the opposition and will schedule local elections on two dates, Kim Yun-hwan, secretary-general of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), said Saturday.

Elections in small units will be late this month and in large units in June because simultaneous elections are impossible under the present local election law, Kim said.

The large units are Korea's nine provinces and six biggest cities—Seoul, Pusan, Inchon, Kwangju, Taegu and Taejon. The small units are the other cities, towns, counties and wards.

A proposal for separate elections failed to win approval Thursday of the DLP Party Affairs Committee and was referred to next week to allow time for negotiations with the opposition, particularly Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD].

Party whips met twice Friday and Saturday but failed to make progress on the issue of revising election laws.

The DLP wanted to have one joint campaign rally instead of two in large units and zero in small units, and ban campaigning by political parties.

The opposition parties charged the DLP with trying to hold the local elections in the dark, and make the candidates dumb and the voters deaf.

PPD floor leader Kim Yong-pae refused to discuss it, saying his party could not agree to a ban on joint rallies in small districts.

Kim Chong-ho of the ruling party said he had told Kim the small- unit elections would be in March unless the PPD guaranteed revision of the local election law in April's house session.

The PPD said the "hasty" step to hold separate elections was an attempt to distract people from the Suso housing scandal and it would hold massive rallies condemning the government and DLP.

The PPD decided Saturday to convene the National Assembly in alliance with the splinter Democratic Party on Tuesday.

If the DLP boycotts the sitting, the PPD says it will stage a sit-in in the National Assembly and a massive outdoor rally March 10 to press the government to lay bare the truth of the scandal.

The Democratic Party said in a strongly worded statement that it would campaign for the resignation of the government and the DLP's dissolution if they sought to hold the small-unit elections in March.

No To Announce 26 Mar Small Unit Local Elections

SK0403100391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0810 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u will announce Tuesday that small-unit local elections are to be held this month and is expected to say they are in a different month than large-unit elections so that they will be fair and clean.

The opposition is bitterly critical, calling it a political plot and an attempt to divert attention from a housing scandal that has rocked the nation for several weeks, and says all the elections should be on the same day in June.

No will hold only the second election in June.

In his announcement, he will say the elections should be clean and free of corruption because they are crucial for Korea's democratization. Following the announcement, the cabinet will meet to set the election date, which will be March 26.

On Wednesday, No will tell governors, mayors and other local leaders to prevent excessive competition or corrupt campaigning.

The home affairs and justice ministers will reveal steps to ensure fair and clean elections in a news conference Thursday.

PPD 9 Mar Rally To Protest Elections Decision

SK0403052191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0439 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) has scheduled a rally here for March 9 to protest the decision of the government and its ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to hold small-unit local elections in late March, ahead of large-unit elections.

In a presidential group meeting Monday morning, the party also decided to call the National Assembly into session March 7 for a week in cooperation with the Democratic Party to invoke the Assembly's authority to investigate and obtain a "true picture" of the Suso housing scandal.

The PPD, led by Kim Tae-chung, deferred a decision on whether to boycott the elections as Kim will announce what his party will do in a news conference after meeting party officials March 5.

"The outdoor rally at Poramae Park is to unveil the DLP's scheme to press ahead with the elections to distract attention from the Suso bribe-taking scandal," PPD Spokesman Pak Sang-chon said. The rally, the first against the government and DLP since the outbreak of the Suso scandal in early February, is sponsored by the PPD with support from dissident organizations, Pak said.

PPD Floor Leader Kim Yong-pae said he would discuss strategy for opening of the Assembly session with his counterpart from the Democratic Party, Rep. Kim Chong-kil. "Within today, the letter of demand for the extra Assembly session will be submitted," he said.

In unofficial meeting with DLP Floor Leader Kim Chong-ho on Sunday, Kim said, he refused an offer for talks between senior officials as "senseless" since the DLP had already made its decision on the elections.

Prosecution: Hanbo Chief Took Bribe, Not Donation

SK0403031591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The 200 million won (279,720 U.S. dollars) given to the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) by Hanbo group chairman Chong Tae-su was a bribe, not a donation, the prosecution said Monday. The prosecution denied categorizing it as a political donation to free the opposition party from further investigation.

PPD Rep. Yi Won-pae will now be charged with accepting 460 million won from Chong in return for using his influence on a lucrative housing deal.

Yi told the prosecution he gave 200 million won to PPD Rep. Kwon No-kap last December to put into party coffers. The money was later spent on year-end activities.

The prosecution initially left the amount off Yi's arrest writ and said it could be considered a donation. Yi will now be charged with taking the 200 million won in addition to the 230 million won and 60 million won he took from Chong and split with PPD Rep. Kim Tae-sik.

Kim, charged with blackmailing the Hanbo group head, now faces an additional charge of bribe-taking, the prosecution said.

Eight people including five lawmakers and a former presidential secretary will be indicted on bribery and other charges arising from the housing scandal on Tuesday, according to the prosecution.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Government To Study UN Resolution on Gulf

BK0403093291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0814 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will study the United Nations resolution on the ceasefire in the Gulf before deciding whether to support the United States' proposal to continue economic sanctions against Iraq.

Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Malaysia's stance would depend on whether the Iraqis adhered to the ceasefire conditions.

"The question of leadership in Iraq does not arise," he told reporters here Monday.

He said Malaysia was still waiting for a report from its permanent representative to the U.N. on the matter.

"We will make the decision after studying the report which will also include developments in the Gulf," he added.

Abu Hassan also said that Malaysia would not extend financial aid for the reconstruction of Iraq and would only encourage its private sector to participate.

So far, Malaysia had not been approached by Iraq on the matter, he added.

Abu Hassan said the government had set up a committee under the economic planning unit of the Prime Minister's Department to study the possibility of the private sector investing in Kuwait and other Gulf states affected by the war.

He added that the government had yet to receive any request from the United Nations to send an observer team to the Gulf and "we have not made any decision on the matter."

Soldiers Prepared To Join Peacekeeping Force

BK0303094291 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Twenty-five Malaysian soldiers will be sent to Kuwait to join a UN peackeeping force, if requested. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak says the soldiers—a lieutenant colonel and 24 majors—have been directed to be prepared to be sent to the Gulf.

He told reporters that preparations were being made following information conveyed by Malaysia's Ambassador to the United Nations Datuk Razali Ismail, indicating that Malaysia will be included in the UN peacekeeping force with the end of the Gulf war.

Commentary on Proposed Trade Bloc, Bali Meeting

BK0403102391 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia's relations with Indonesia will be further strengthened as a result of the prime minister's official visit to Jakarta and Bali.

Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and his team of senior ministers and officials were accorded a warm welcome when they arrived in the Indonesian capital last Thursday. The two ASEAN leaders not only exchanged views but also agreed on the number goals for the mutual benefit of the two countries. A particular interest at this time is the joint economic project involving Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.

(?Facilities) called the the growth triangle, the many projects to ensure that Johore in South Malaysia along with Singapore and the Indonesian island of Batam will become a model of cooperative economic development. The whole of the Asia-Pacific region will probably feel the impact of this noble enterprise. The growth triangle will afford further proofs of the dynamism of the ASEAN connection. It should prove as a good example to other countries of the South. They are keen on increasing the quality of life of their people.

The Malaysian prime minister's concept of the East Asian Economic Grouping or EAEG ticket prominently in the Jakarta discussion. It is gratifying for Malaysian society to note that this proposal was received with a positive attitude by the Indonesian head of state. The two leaders met against the background of the Gulf war and the changing political scenario in that region.

Both Malaysia and Indonesia had been opposed to the takeover of Kuwait. They had also supported U.N. resolutions, aimed at resolution of the crisis. Doubtless, both countries will support moves for greater unity and solidarity in total among Islamic states.

The conference in Bali is a significant landmark in the history of ASEAN. The theme is a challenge of change in the international community. This [words indistinct] the fifth ASEAN summit which is also held in Bali. Besides, ASEAN is more than a geographical expression. It has established strong credibility and it is even a phase setter for the Asia-Pacific region. The Bali conference will also be another example of Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's forward thinking and planning.

Even before the Bali conference, the East Asian Economic Grouping was being heralded as an ASEAN effort. From now on we can expect to see a great deal more about the EAEG. After all it does represent an institution that reflected the interdependence of Malaysians in our day and age.

Malaysia will continue to promote a greater volume of trade both among ASEAN partners and with other members of the international community.

Trade Agreement Signed With Romania 1 Mar

BK0103144791 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Malaysia and Romania have signed a trade agreement which provides for the setting up of a joint trade committee to look into ways to enhance bilateral economic ties and resolve related problems.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz said at the signing ceremony that the Malaysian private sector should follow up and undertake joint ventures with Romanian businessmen and use their country as a gateway to the East European and West European markets.

Romanian Foreign Minister Dr. Adrian Nastase said Malaysian investments in Romania would be guaranteed and also facilitated. He added that areas with joint venture possibilities included prospecting of palm oil, rubber, and timber.

The trade agreement, among other things, ensured the most-favored-nation treatment to be accorded to each other in respect of customs duties, tariffs, and internal taxation.

Ambassadorial-Level Ties Opened With Cameroon

BK0103065091 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Malaysia and Cameroon have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, a Foreign Ministry statement said this today. The Malaysian high commissioner to Nigeria, Abdul Majid bin Ahmad Khan, who is resident in Lagos, has been accredited as the country's ambassador to Cameroon. The statement said the upgrading in diplomatic status between the two countries was to enhance the existing relations and to develop further cooperation.

Sabah Institute Executive Director Released

BK0303151991 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Dr. Maximum Ongkili, the executive director of the Sabah Institute for Development Studies [IDS], arrested under the Internal Security Act in Kuala Lumpur on 3 January, was released last night. He returned to Kota Kinabalu this evening. In a statement issued this evening, Dr. Ongkili said he was released without any conditions.

He was arrested when police wanted to investigate his role in the IDS. He was also suspected of engaging in activities detrimental to the country's security.

Minister on Removal of Remnant Booby Traps

BK0203144091 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] The operations to remove remnant booby traps left by communist terrorists along the Malaysia-Thailand border will be continued until the government is satisfied the area is safe.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub said the operations will take a long time to complete as some of the traps were laid more than 40 years ago.

The operation is being conducted by security forces from both countries and assisted by a former member of the Communist Party of Malaya, CPM.

Datuk Megat Junid told newsmen that the government wishes to develop the border area once it is satisfactorily safe. He added that so far the border area between Perak and Thailand is almost clear of all booby traps.

Cambodia

National Assembly Reiterates Stand on Solution

BK0103153991 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Mar 91

[From the "Daily Major News Roundup"]

[Text] The extraordinary session of the first National Assembly ended its work successfully this morning under the chairmanship of Comrade Chea Sim, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly.

In his closing speech, Comrade Chairman Chea Sim stressed that our National Assembly discussed the elaborate draft agreement on the overall political solution to the Cambodian problem dated 26 November 1990 worked out by the five big powers of the UN Security Council and the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. Through this discussion, the National Assembly took note of the active efforts made by the United Nations and the international community in the process to seek an overall political solution for the Cambodian problem through which, within a short period of time, a draft agreement has been worked out and put forth for consideration by the Cambodian factions.

The National Assembly highly valued all these efforts and unanimously accepted many points in this document. However, the National Assembly took note of a number of points needed to be discussed further, namely:

1. The document mentions neither the genocidal acts nor concrete measures to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, one of the two key issues in the solution to the Cambodian problem.

2. [Words indistinct] document does not conform with the principle on respect for sovereignty defined in the UN Charter.

3. The elaborate content of the document does not conform to the principle of respect for the Cambodian people's right to self- determination which relates to maintenance of the political and military status quo.

Therefore, the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia [SOC] emphasizes once again that the SOC accepts many points in the document dated 26 November 1990 and the important role of the United Nations on the basis of the principle of respect for sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination as well as the UN Charter.

The National Assembly also stressed that the SOC is always ready to continue the negotiation and discussion on all the points in the document which are not yet appropriate.

In this connection, the National Assembly appealed for an early meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] to discuss and settle all the issues within the framework of the internal aspects of the Cambodian problem, thus speeding up the peace process.

Based on the above-mentioned points, the National Assembly emphasized a number of issues for use as the targets in the future negotiation to seek the political solution as follows:

1. The overall political solution to the Cambodian problem must provide concrete measures for preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

2. The political and military status quo must be maintained until [words indistinct] through a free and correct election.

3. The important role of the United Nations in the political solution to the Cambodian problem must be in conformity with the UN Charter and the principles of respect of sovereignty and the Cambodian nation's right to self-determination. The extent of the role of the United Nations must be decided by the SNC in its capacity as the representative of Cambodia's national sovereignty.

On that occasion, the National Assembly of the SOC appealed to the other Cambodian groups to show their genuine good will so as to sincerely and constructively begin the future talks on the essential points in the draft agreement, thus ensuring long-lasting peace for our motherland and people.

The other Cambodian groups should join hands in turning the present battlefield into a platform for contest in ideas to enable the Cambodian people to exercise their right to self-determination through election. In this connection, if it is possible for any preliminary agreement to be reached on the voluntary cease-fire, cessation of military aid, repatriation of the refugees, and the beginning [words indistinct] without having to wait for the overall political solution, it would be the best and most significant point in speeding up the (?solution) and reflects the (?trust) toward each other.

French, Indonesian Visit Likely To Be Postponed

BK0403092291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Jakarta, March 4 (AFP)—The forthcoming visit to Phnom Penh by envoys from Indonesia and France, countries which cochair the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), will probably be postponed to mid-April, Western diplomatic sources said here Monday.

U.N. Deputy Secretary General Raffiuddin Ahmad was to join the envoys on the March 11-12 visit and requested the postponement because he was busy for the next few days, the sources said.

Indonesia's head of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Wiryono, and Jean David Levitte, Asia Director from the French Foreign Ministry, were the PICC envoys for the mission announced in Paris on February 23.

Meanwhile Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has not ruled out the holding of a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) here in April.

The SNC meeting, which will bring together six representatives of the Phnom Penh Government and six from the Cambodian resistance coalition, did not appear to be possible any sooner, said a source close to the minister, who is currently attending a seminar on the economic future of Southeast Asian nations in Bali.

The meeting would only be held after the cochairs' and Mr. Rafiuddin's visit to Phnom Penh and following the Moslem month of Ramadan, which starts shortly, the source added.

"Despite the Gulf war, all are committed to a permanent and peaceful solution to the Cambodian question," Mr. Alatas told the seminar.

All PICC participants had given "very encouraging" assurances, "particularly the Cambodians," he said.

He said the PICC hoped "to find a way in the near future on the base of the draft text of the two co-chairmen."

Early in February Mr. Alatas and French Foreign Affairs Minister delegate Edwige Avice visited Vietnam, Phnom Penh's main backer, and Thailand, where the Cambodian resistance is based.

Mr. Alatas and Mrs. Avice were there to brief leaders of those countries on the outcome of PICC consultations in Paris in December.

Party Paper Reaffirms Determination To Fight On

BK0303094591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 2 Mar 91

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Resolutely Fight To Achieve Genuine Peace for the Country and Our People"]

[Text] Starting from a stance of high responsibility for the destiny of the country and nation and the people's lives, from 28 February to 1 March, the State of Cambodia's National Assembly convened an extraordinary session to discuss and decide on a number of issues relating to the position and principles of the State of Cambodia in negotiations to achieve a durable, reasonable, and just political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Representing their electorates, members of the National Assembly from constituencies throughout the country debated and carefully analyzed the detailed draft agreement on a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem, dated 26 November 1990, of the five major countries of the UN Security Council and the cochairmen of the Paris conference. They based their discussion on respect for the UN Charter, international law, sovereignty, people's right to self-determination, and their historic duty toward the people and nations the world over.

In accordance with the sacred aspiration of the Cambodian people throughout the country who want peace with a clear guarantee on the non-return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, the National Assembly unanimously adopted principles and views to be adhered to by the State of Cambodia in Cambodian peace negotiations. All negotiations, agreements, or political solutions relating to the Cambodian problem should be based on realistic and unbiased views, guarantee for full respect of Cambodia's sovereignty, and a clear guarantee and concrete measures to prevent the return to power of the genocidal Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. They should also be based on a guarantee for the implementation and respect of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination while maintaining the political and military status quo until the establishment of a new government through free and proper elections with the United Nations having an appropriate role in accordance with its charter to supervise the elections and the implementation of the agreement by concerned parties.

The National Assembly highly appreciated the active efforts of the United Nations and the international community in the process of finding a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem. The National Assembly agreed to accept the majority of points except for a number of points in the document—points which are the core and key of the Cambodian problem but which do not talk about genocide and do not take concrete measures to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, and which are also not yet in line with the principles of respect for sovereignty and respect for the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. This absolutely requires further detailed negotiations to quickly advance the process to search for genuine and durable peace for Cambodia.

Acting in accordance with the sacred aspiration and request of the Cambodian people, the State of Cambodia's government has put forward many constructive peace initiatives, including great and successive concessions, to break the deadlock. Also, the State of Cambodia has created a lot of favorable conditions for the process to find a peaceful political solution to the Cambodian problem. On the contrary, the other Cambodian side, which has neither territory nor people, has adhered to a stance devoid of goodwill, kept making unreasonable demands from the State of Cambodia, and has deliberately destroyed the negotiations to find genuine and durable peace for Cambodia. In other words, these people talk about peace and sympathy for the people and have unconditionally accepted the draft agreement of a political solution to the Cambodian problem, yet, they accept military aid and escalate the war aimed at toppling the State of Cambodia through military means without batting an eyelid about the loss of the people's lives and property.

The negotiation process to find a political solution which brings genuine peace in accordance with the legitimate interests of our people is still long, arduous, and very complex. Therefore, more than ever, everyone should continue to expand their valiant spirit and high responsibility toward the destiny of the country and nation, firmly unite around our party's leadership, and resolutely fight to endure difficulties instead of adventurously accepting a non-durable peace which brings along the genocidal Pol Pot regime, which combatants and our compatriots have been making sacrifices to fight and prevent from occurring again in Cambodia. We are willing to suffer but absolutely will not commit suicide. The real victory rests with our people's just struggle.

Provincial Forces Knock Out 79 Enemy Soldiers

BK0403071091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0410 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 4 Mar (SPK)—During counteroperations launched from 13 to 23 February in the district of Varin, the Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey provincial armed forces put out of action 79 soldiers of the three opposition factions, according to a military source which specified:

Thirty-eight enemy soldiers were killed, 38 wounded, and three others captured, and the government forces seized 42 assorted weapons and several metric tons of cartridges and shells and destroyed 13 enemy hideouts.

On their side, the authorities of Battambang Province welcomed back to the fold in 1990 and during the first two months of 1991, 32 returnees who also surrendered 10 weapons.

Battle Successes in Week Ending 21 Feb Reported

BK0303064491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0435 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 3—In the week to February 21, the three Khmer opposition forces kept launching intensive attacks on the government troops stationing along the northwestern border areas and in Kompong Thom Province.

According to the military sources, in the period under review the government forces launched 13 big pushes against the enemy, putting 219 enemy troops out of action, including 92 killed, 49 wounded, 19 captured, and 59 others forced to surrender. The government troops also seized 143 rifles, more than three tons of ammunition, three walkie-talkies, and a quantity of other war materials.

Noticeably, on February 17, in a two-hour clash at Treng, the government forces annihilated 25 enemy soldiers on the scene and collected one 120-mm mortar, five 12.7 machine guns, three B-62 rocket launchers, three guns, one walkie-talkie, and a quantity of other war means. In addition, on February 16, combatants of a government garrison found a cache of explosives with three tons of ammunition.

On February 16, the government troops engaged with the opposition troops at Sre Noy and Svay Leu (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province) inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy side, including 18 killed and 24 wonded. They also seized one walkie-talkie and hundreds of artillery shells.

On February 15-18, Kompong Thom Province received 99 deserters from the opposition factions with 25 rifles in hand.

Heng Samrin Greets Gorbachev on Birthday

BK0403043091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Recently, Comrade Heng Samrin, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia, sent a greetings message to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Soviet Union. The message noted:

On the occasion of your 60th birthday, I am very happy to extend best wishes to you. May you enjoy good health and happiness. May the policy of perestroyka implemented under your wise leadership bring well-being and prosperity to the Soviet people.

Availing myself of this occasion, I would like to express the profound gratitude of the Cambodian party, government, and people to you and to the Soviet party, government, and people for giving all-around support and assistance to the State of Cambodia's correct cause of defending and building the country and particularly to the search for a fair and correct political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Heng Samrin Greets MPRP's 70th Anniversary

BK0203084791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, sent a message of greetings to the MPRP Central Committee.

The message read in essence: In its courageous and brave struggle over the past 70 years, the MPRP has led the Mongolian people to surmount all manner of difficulties and obstacles, achieving great multifarious successes in building the country toward national democracy on the basis of scientific socialism as well as prosperity.

The 20th MPRP Congress has defined a number of reforms aimed at promoting the economic stability and development of the nation. The achievements scored by the fraternal Mongolian party and people in the past have expanded the strength and elevated the image of the nation, importantly contributing to safeguarding peace and security in the region and the world.

May the relations of friendship, solidarity, and all-around cooperation between our two parties and peoples further strengthen and develop in this new phase.

VONADK Critical of Hanoi's Appeal to UN

BK0303085391 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "Exposing the Hanoi Vietnamese Aggressors' Deceptive Maneuvers Against the Enhanced Role of the United Nations"]

[Text] I. The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors have been exposed worldwide. Everyone has seen through the true evil nature of the Hanoi authorities, who have destroyed the UN peace plan. Being isolated and continuously condemned by the world, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have employed a newly concocted stratagem by pretentiously calling on the UN to assist in controlling and stopping the flow of armaments into Cambodia's battlefield. What is the purpose of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors' appeal? It is:

1. To oppose the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the efforts by the international community to end the Vietnamese war in Cambodia through a comprehensive political solution.

2. To disguise their criminal activities on the battlefield of aggression against Cambodia, to which they have

actively been shipping armaments and ammunition as well as troops from Vietnam to intensify military operations aimed at retaking liberated areas from the Cambodian National Resistance [CNR].

3. To deceive the UN into legalizing their puppets and endorsing their aggression in Cambodia as a fait accompli.

II. There are sufficient documents for solving the Cambodian problem—the 28 August 1990 framework blueprint and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement, which have been adopted by the UNSC through its resolution 668/90.

The three partners of the CNR and the world have fully endorsed and supported the documents. However, only the Hanoi Vietnamese enemies and their lackey puppets themselves have objected to the documents—they have been opposed to an enhanced UN role, a UN peacekeeping force, and a UN transitional authority. The Vietnamese enemies have refused to dissolve the puppet army and regime because they want to continue hiding their aggressor troops in Cambodia to further the war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia and because they fear that the UN will verify and demand all their aggressor troops withdraw from Cambodia.

III. The Cambodian people and the CNR—which have been battling the Vietnamese enemy aggressors for over 12 years, bogging them down and making them breathe their last gasp—are resolutely determined to hold the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors in check, not allowing them to perform their ruses at will to achieve their aim of swallowing Cambodia and incorporating it into their Indochinese federation. We have been struggling since the day when the Vietnamese enemy aggressors were at the culmination of their euphoria until they plunged themselves into an immovable quagmire. We were struggling back when there was nothing until a document—the UNSC [United Nations Security Council] Resolution 668, which is an international document—was mapped out. All the parties are imperatively required to respect and implement the resolution of the UNSC. Nobody has the right to manipulate or modify it at will. And the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their lackey puppets can in no way dodge the UNSC Resolution 668.

VODK Criticizes SRV Call for Settlement

BK0303092591 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "Vietnam Must Declare Its Acceptance of the 26 November 1990 Draft Agreement If It Really Wants To Expedite a Political Settlement of the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors on 28 February issued a statement pretentiously claiming that they want to expedite the settlement of the Cambodian problem by calling on the international community to further its drive for this aim. The Vietnamese, however, did not declare their acceptance of the 28 August 1990 framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement worked out by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and the United Nations with a view toward politically and comprehensively resolving the Cambodian problem, but emphasized the so-called cease-fire instead. The Hanoi authorities' propaganda can mislead nobody, because the international community has undoubtedly realized that the stumbling block to the settlement of the Cambodian problem is created by Vietnam and the Vietnamese-installed traitorous Phnom Penh puppets, who have continuously been against the 28 August 1990 framework blueprint and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

The international community and the three partners of the Cambodian National Resistance [CNR] have unanimously agreed that the Cambodian problem has to be settled in compliance with the above-mentioned documents as soon as possible. So, if the Hanoi authorities really want to quickly resolve the Cambodian problem as they have announced, they must declare their acceptance of the 28 August 1990 fundamental document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

As for the issue of a cease-fire and other problems, they are already mentioned in the aforementioned documents, and the Vietnamese do not need to repeat those questions anymore. This is the real approach to accelerate a political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

By all accounts, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors have not thus far shown any sign of willingness to settle the problem in compliance with the aforementioned documents. While the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors were clamoring for the international community to strive for solving the Cambodian problem and calling for the so-called cease-fire, the Vietnamese aggressor troops were intensifying the war in Cambodia in an increasingly barbarous manner—they went so far as to use chemical weapons which are absolutely prohibited by the world community in accordance with the 1925 Geneva Convention. Along with this, Vietnam has ordered the puppets to maneuver for organizing elections under their regime and outside the framework of the UNSC peace plan for the purpose of legalizing the regime. This is aimed at providing the Vietnamese with an opportunity to occupy Cambodia forever in line with late Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese federation strategy. That being the case, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have no goodwill whatsoever in sincerely solving the Cambodian problem. Their statement is just a deceiving propaganda tactic of the type they have always employed to circumvent international pressure, particularly the pressure to be applied on them in the wake of the Gulf war.

VONADK on Phnom Penh Assembly 'Farce'

BK0403023291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Mar 91

["Article": "The Hanoi Vietnamese Aggressors Have Organized a Farcical Phnom Penh Puppet National

Assembly Session To Oppose UN Security Council Resolution No. 668 on Cambodia Amid Great Alarm"]

[Summary] "A few days ago before the eyes of the national and international public, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators organized another farce by holding a session of their puppet Phnom Penh National Assembly to openly oppose the document of the UN Security Council's permanent members. This abject farce has once again laid bare the evil face of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet-lackeys and can fool no one." On the other hand, the world community has continued to demand that they accept the UN Security Council document on a comprehensive political solution for Cambodian problem.

In such a situation, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet-lackeys have been in great alarm, realizing that they will not be able to avoid internal and external pressure forcing them to respect and implement this document. They are alarmed because they realize that UN Security Council Resolution 668 will certainly be imposed on them. This means that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the UN Peacekeeping Force will be dispatched to join with the Supreme National Council headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in conducting all kinds of supervision in Cambodia, particularly on the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces in order to restore genuine independence and peace in Cambodia.

VODK: USSR Continues Arms Aid to SRV

BK0403023891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Mar 91

["News commentary": "The Soviet Union Continues To Send Arms and War Materiel to Hanoi Authorities for Them To Carry on Their War of Aggression and Extermination Against Cambodia"]

[Summary] "On 20 February, the Soviet Union shipped heavy arms and war materiel to Kompong Som port for the Hanoi authorities to carry on their war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia."

Both the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their Soviet boss have been launching many military, political, and diplomatic maneuvers to fool the world into accepting the over 12-year Vietnamese aggression and occupation in Cambodia as a fait accompli. In the military field, the Vietnamese aggressors have kept sending more troops and war materiel to Cambodia for launching dry-season offensives to seize the liberated zone from the Cambodian national resistance forces.

"At the same time, the Soviet Union—the financier of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia—has continued to send modern arms, tanks, artillery pieces, and war materiel to Cambodia for Vietnam to escalate its war of aggression and racial extermination in Cambodia."

However, no matter what deceitful maneuvers they have resorted to, the Vietnamese enemies and their Soviet boss will never realize their criminal schemes because the international community and particularly the countries in this region are well aware of their tricky and cunning nature and will continue pressuring Vietnam to respect and implement the five UN documents for settling the Cambodian problem comprehensively through political means.

Indonesia

Suharto, Malaysia's Mahathir on Gulf Cease-Fire

BK0103134691 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] With a sense of relief, Indonesia and Malaysia have welcomed the cease-fire in the Gulf. President Suharto and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed expressed their sense of relief during their meeting at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace this evening. During their 90-minute meeting, the two leaders were accompanied by their ministers.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Minister-State Secretary Murdiono said the two leaders had expressed hope that an early solution to the Middle East problems in general can be achieved. They also shared the view that the Gulf war had negative impacts on the economies of the world as well as the developing countries. They also hoped the Palestinian problem would be solved soon.

During the meeting, the Malaysian prime minister also briefed President Suharto on his proposal to establish the East Asian Economic Grouping. The president said he fully understood the proposal. In this connection, ASEAN is expected to remain the regional grouping of Southeast Asian nations. Prime Minister Mahathir also spoke on his concept of an open world market. Minister-State Secretary Murdiono said the president responded to Mahathir's explanation by saying that other ASEAN members should study Mahathir's concept.

The Malaysian prime minister arrived in Jakarta this morning for a few days' visit to Indonesia.

Suharto Meets Saudi King's Special Envoy

BK0203102091 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Indonesia is ready to extend its assistance in the form of a UN peacekeeping force to the Gulf following a cessation of hostilities in that region. President Suharto said this when he received a courtesy call from Saudi State Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, a special envoy of Saudi King Fahd, at his Cendana Road residence in Jakarta today. During the meeting, the Saudi minister presented a special letter to President Suharto from King Fahd. Speaking to reporters later, Minister Mas'ud confirmed that a UN peacekeeping force is indeed needed during the post-Gulf war period. He added that situation in Saudi Arabia had returned to normal so Indonesian hajj pilgrims can perform their pilgrimage this year.

Meanwhile, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations Wiryono, who was present during the meeting, disclosed that the Indonesian head of state had expressed his hope that Indonesian workers in Saudi Arabia would receive fair treatment and legal protection. The president also urged Saudi Arabia to join coordinated works in coping with the oil problem following the end of the Gulf war.

Official Says Ties With Kuwait, Iraq Unchanged

BK0103162891 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The Indonesian Government stresses there is no change in diplomatic relations with both Kuwait and Iraq following the end of the Gulf war, and the position of Indonesian ambassadors to the two countries remains unchanged. Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, director general of political affairs of the Foreign Affairs Department, disclosed this in Jakarta today, adding that Indonesian ambassadors accredited to the two countries had been temporarily recalled in view of the unfavorable security situation.

However, the director general of political affairs is unable to say when the two ambassadors will return to assume their posts because the war has not completely ended.

Army Chief Remarks on Gulf Peacekeeping Force

BK0303125591 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Indonesia is ready to send 10 members of its troops as a part of a UN peacekeeping force in the Gulf as soon as a cease-fire agreement has been reached between Iraq and the multinational forces. In Nusa Dua, Bali today, ABRI [Armed Forces of Indonesia] chief, General Try Sutrisno said the 10-member peacekeeping team would be comprised of personnel from the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Indonesia's readiness to send the military personnel is in alignment with Indonesia's constant attitude in upholding the non-bloc principles. Indonesia has much experience in the peacekeeping force under the supervision of the United Nations, namely in the Congo, Gaza, Sinai, Vietnam, and during the Iran-Iraq cease-fire in recent years.

Laos

Spokesman Welcomes End of Allied Operations

BK0103124891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday afternoon issued a statement in support of the cessation of the U.S.-led allied military operations against Iraq. The statement says: Following consultations among the allied countries, U.S. President George Bush announced the cessation of the allied combat operations against Iraq beginning 2400 hours in New York or 1200 hours yesterday in our country. The statement continues: The announcement is good news which the Lao Government and people as well as all peace-loving nations worldwide have longed for and wholeheartedly support because it is the only way to end the bloodshed and dishonoring destruction to restore genuine peace and stability in this part of the world.

In conclusion, the statement says: The Lao Government and people hope that all parties concerned will practice restraint and exert their efforts to realize a true and permanent cease-fire and settle all conflicts through peaceful means.

Oudom Khatthi-nga Receives Vietnamese Delegation

BK0103135791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Oudom Khatthi-nga, chairman of the party Central Committee organization board, yesterday afternoon received a courtesy call from Nong Duc Manh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the Vietnam-Lao Friendship Association, who led a delegation of the SRV's peace and friendship associations to visit the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] from 21 to 28 February at the invitation of the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Nations.

The delegation held a meeting with the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Nations to discuss various issues in connection with the future development of relations and cooperation in line with the policies of the parties and governments of the two countries. Both sides also exchanged views on the situation in the region and the world.

Regarding the situation in the Persian Gulf region, the two sides expressed concern over war maneuvers of the United States and some other countries. They were also concerned about the ground offensives launched inside Kuwait and Iraq after Iraq accepted the Soviet Union's peace offer and announced an unconditional troop withdrawal from Kuwait to pave the way for the restoration of sovereignty of the country in accordance with Resolution 660 of the UN Security Council. The ground offensive indicated that the war launched by the United

States and some other countries has exceeded the goals of the UN Security Council resolutions.

During the visit to Laos, the Vietnamese delegation visited a number of economic and sociocultural places in Vientiane Municipality, Vientiane, and Luang Prabang Provinces.

Somlat Chanthamat Departs Cambodia, Visits SRV

BK0203125791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Propaganda and Training Board headed by Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and head of the LPRP Central Committee Propaganda and Training Board, ended its five-day working visit to the State of Cambodia at the invitation of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee. The Lao delegation left Phnom Penh on 26 February for a visit to the SRV at the invitation of the Propaganda and Traning Board of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

During their stay in the State of Cambodia, Somlat Chanthamat and his party paid a courtesy call on Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the Cambodian National Front for Construction and Defense. The State of Cambodia leader informed our Lao delegation of the efforts made by the party, state, and people of the State of Cambodia in trying to rehabilitate the country since the overthrow of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Chea Sim particularly pointed out the fundemental stand of the State of Cambodia in trying to seek a settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means. For his part, Somlat Chanthamat expressed sincere support for the just struggle of the Cambodian people to prevent the return to power by the genocidal Pol Pot regime and to settle the Cambodian problem through political means.

Somlat Chanthamat and his delegation also held a meeting with Dit Munti, head of the KPRP Central Committee Propaganda and Training Board, and visited a number of economic and cultural foundations in Phnom Penh and Kompong Som.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With SRV Province

BK0203084591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] On 25 February, a cooperation plan was signed in Champassak Province between Champassak Province and Binh Dinh Province in the SRV. According to the cooperation plan, the two provinces agreed to render assistance to each other for mutual benefit in the fields of trade, tourism, industry, handicrafts, agriculture, commuinication, transport, post, public health, and banking enterprises.

Sounthon Thep-asa, chairman of the Champassak provincial administration, and (Tran Van Chan), chairman of the Binh Dinh provincial administration, signed the agreement.

The cooperation plan was mapped out during a visit to Champassak Province by a delegation from Binh Dinh Province.

Cooperation Talks With SRV Province Officials

BK0203085991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The delegation of the party and administrative committees of Savannakhet Province led by Boun-gnang Volichit, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and both secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Savannakhet Province, recently paid a working visit to the SRV's Quang Tri Province. The leadership of the SRV province extended a warm welcome to and worked in earnest with the Savannakhet provincial delegation.

At a meeting, the two sides assessed the outcome of the cooperation along the border of friendship between the two provinces and the Vietnamese assistance in education work and in the consolidation of the public health network in grassroots areas in Savannakhet Province. They also consulted with each other on the application of some practical measures aimed at strengthening socioeconomic cooperation between the two provinces, especially in the transport of import and export goods.

Leaders Send National Day Greetings to Bulgaria

BK0303112991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic, and Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, today separately sent greeting messages to Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic of Bulgaria, and Dumitur Popov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria on the occasion of the national day of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Phoumi Vongvichit and Kaysone Phomvihan, on behalf of the Lao Government and people and on their own, expressed the firm belief that the traditional friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and Bulgaria will continue to be further strengthened for the benefit of peace and social progress.

On the same occasion, Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut also sent a message of greetings to Viktor Vulkov, foreign minister of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Nouhak Phoumsavan Holds Meeting in Houa Phan

BK0303113591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] During his grass-roots production inspection tour, Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], on the morning of 1 March held a meeting with cadres, members of the local party and administrative committees, and the people in the municipal area of Viangthong District, Houa Phan Province.

After the briefing by the chairman of the district administrative committee on production and livelihood of the multiethnic people, the SPA chairman asked of cadres concerned about the problems in the education, public health, and goods production areas. In the past, Viangthong District had encountered some difficulties in the provision of rice supplies and regular salary payments for school teachers while medical services rendered to the people were rather slow. The production of consumer goods and food supplies was subsistent and primitive.

Nouhak Phoumsavan advised and encouraged the local authority and the multi-ethnic people to enhance the spirit of patriotism and jointly carry out the two strategic tasks. He stressed the need to promote the people's production, curb the slash-and-burn type of cultivation, build new irrigation systems, increase rice-cultivating acreage, produce goods for export, improve distribution systems to bring goods to the people in mountainous regions, and promote animal husbandry and cultivation of starchy and industrial crops. He added that attention must also given to education and public health services. In particular, the problem of salary payment for teachers must be solved in a timely manner. The local administration and mass organizations will have to improve its working style and patterns.

To achieve the said goals, Nouhak Phoumsavan said that we must promote the people's right to self-mastery through popularizing among the multiethnic people and implementing the policies of the party and state.

Philippines

Aquino Offers Help With Gulf Reconstruction

HK0403052291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 2 Mar 91 pp 1, 10

[Text] President Aquino said yesterday she has offered the country's help to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to reconstruct their war-ravaged countries.

Ms Aquino told a press conference that Labor Security Ruben D. Torres will again be sent to the Middle East to discuss the offer with Kuwaiti and Saudi officials.

Because of the Gulf war, Kuwaiti officials have said, practically the entire emirate will have to be rehabilitated at costs that would amount to as much as $100 billion.

Torres will offer Kuwait and Saudi Arabia not only Filipino labor but also the services of private Philippine companies, the President said.

She said she wrote the emir of Kuwait, the king of Saudi Arabia and the heads of state of allied countries to congratulate them on their successful military operations in the Gulf.

"I have also offered them our assistance in so far as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected areas are concerned," she said.

The government is confident its offer to help in reconstruction work will be welcomed by the countries that were affected by the Gulf conflict, according to Press Undersecretary Horacio V. Paredes.

He said although the Philippines was not considered as part of the alliance of countries who contributed to the war efforts in the Gulf, it has maintained "very good" relations with countries in the Middle East.

"Since it is these countries that wil decide on the offer to help and not the alliance, we stand a good chance of getting our portion of the work," Paredes said.

He said the government was aware that allied countries, particularly the U.S., will get the lion's share of the reconstruction contracts in Kuwait and that there are very few Philippine companies that can compete in international biddings.

He said the government will concentrate on finding jobs for Filipino workers.

Paredes said the country has a "big advantage" over other countries in terms of manpower.

He said Filipino laborers have been in demand abroad because of their education and the quality of their work.

Paredes' views were shared by the Philippine labor attache to Kuwait, Lamberto Marin.

He said the countries that helped Kuwait by sending armed contingents to the Gulf will get the bigger job contracts.

Marin said Egypt, for instance, sent one of the largest contingents to the conflict and in return, Egyptians may be given a "big chunk" of the post-war jobs.

But he was optimistic Filipinos will get a good share, even more than 30,000 new jobs projected by labor officials.

"American and Japanese firms in Kuwait prefer Filipinos for their ability to be multi-skilled as well as their ability to speak English," Marin said.

He also said the demand for foreign workers would increase greatly if Kuwait follows the lead of Saudi

Arabia by expelling around 260,000 Jordanian and Palestinian workers from its work force. Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organization supported Iraq in the war.

Meanwhile, a report reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] said a Filipino driver was killed in a land mine explosion in Saudi Arabia.

The DFA said the driver, Jose R. Salcedo Jr., was with four other foreign truck drivers and they were delivering foodstuff to the coalition forces at Al-Khafji in the eastern part of the kingdom on Feb. 26 when they were killed.

"Salcedo, who was employed by the Arab Supply and Trading Corp, was the first reported Filipino casualty of the Gulf war.

Salcedo's remains were at the Nariyah Army hospital in Saudi Arabia. His body will be sent home shortly after repatriation arrangements are worked out.

Aquino Statement on Aid Program Pledging Session

HK0103140991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0733 GMT 1 Mar 91

["Statement" by President Aquino to correspondents in Heroes Hall, Malacanang—live in English]

[Text] The successful completion of the second PAP [Philippine Assistance Program] pledging session in Hong Kong is a reaffirmation of the support from the international community for our own efforts at facing up to the challenge that has been confronting us since 1986—how to make democracy work for development.

I am very pleased by the outcome of the pledging session, for beyond specific commitments of continuing an additional official development assistance, we gathered sympathetic understanding for the problems we have been through and for the program for action that is awaiting implementation in the immediate future.

I wish to thank all the countries and international organizations that attended the pledging session for all the gestures of genuine friendship they extended to the Phlippines. I am only too aware of the responsibility that the trust and confidence from friends imposes on us. We have to complete the work we have set out to do, and we have to build a broader consensus behind the economic programs we have cast for short term stabilization and long term reform.

The sharing by the international donor-community of our commitment to economic stability and growth, reinforces our determination to leave an economic legacy that is fully consistent with the ideals behind the political democratic institution we have reestablished. Along with a robustly maturing democracy, a vigorously growing economy must develop. This is what I am determined to bequeath to the next administration and I am glad that our friends around the world are helping us to achieve it. Indeed the help of the participating donor countries is an eloquent message to all the sectors of Philippine society to join hands together so that the road ahead becomes smoother and the task at hand becomes easier. Their example in extending a helping hand and in showing a considerate mind can only inspire all Filipinos who deeply care about the long term progress of the Philippines.

For celebrating the fifth anniversary of the EDSA [Epifanio delos Santos Avenue] Revolution by committing to work closely with us toward a future of a stable democracy and rapid development in the Philippines, I wish to thank all the international community of MAI [Multilateral Aid Initiative]-PAP.

That is the end of my statement.

Aquino Urges Speedy Work on Economic Projects

HK0403070391 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 23

[By Fred M. Lobo]

[Text] President Aquino called yesterday on politicians and non-politicians alike to join hands and help the country move forward through speedy and continuing implementation of livelihood, public works and other projects.

The President also said she will likely be the first incumbent president who will not seek reelection and that she plans to devote her time to helping nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) after her term.

Mrs Aquino issued her call and made known her plans during her regular weekly TV-radio program "Magtanong sa Pangulo" [Ask the President].

The President said the economy is slowly improving and that cooperation among the people could speed up national progress.

"Politicians and non-politicians should join hands and help our country," she stressed.

She cited NGOs in various parts of the country for strongly supporting, if not spearheading, livelihood programs and other relevant projects that could help deliver socio-economic benefits especially to the poor.

"I am happy that somehow our economy is slowly picking up and I think that with the help of thousands like you (NGOs), the country's progress will be accelerated," Mrs Aquino said.

The President appealed anew for greater support to various livelihood, public works and other projects being implemented nationwide under the Kabisig [partnership] program.

She said programs and projects that have been successful should be replicated throughout the country as she had appealed in her speech at the 5th anniversary celebration of the 1986 EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolution.

Mrs Aquino said that this is the reason why she cited some successful Kabisig projects in her EDSA speech, and it was not to endorse her candidates for 1992.

The President said she will continue to use her Social Fund to support livelihood and other projects, alongside with the various government agencies and institutions such as the Philippine National Bank (PNB) and the Development Bank of the Philippines. (DBP).

She added that NGOs needing to carry out their projects may seek the help of, and submit their project studies to, the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) headed by Deputy Executive Director Herminio Coloma.

The President reiterated she is not seeking reelection and that it is important to he to get the support of the various sectors for her programs.

"Unang-una, hindinaman ako kandidato...mahalaga land sa akin na itong ating demokrasya ay lalo lamang patibayin at palakasin at saka matulungan itong ating mga mamamayan," [First of all, I am not a candidate. What is important to me is that our democracy is strengthened and our people are helped] she said.

"I think I will be the first incumbent president who is not running for reelection," she added.

All presidents of the country sought reelection during their incumbency except Manuel Roxas who died of heart attck, and Ramon Magsaysay who perished in a plane crash.

Mrs. Aquino said that after fully serving her term, she will use her remaining strength and contacts with the international community in helping NGOs.

Such move was taken by other retired world leaders like U.S. President Jimmy Carter who even did carpentry work for the benefit of the homeless.

President Aquino Gives 1 Mar News Conference

HK0203053091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0733 GMT 1 Mar 91

[News conference by President Corazon C. Aquino at Kalayaan Hall, Malacanang—live, in English]

[Text] [Aquino] I am ready for the questions.

[Guanzon] Good afternoon Mrs. President. I am Tere Guanzon from Channel 2. My first question is: A U.S. federal court has recently ordered the Philippine Government to pay an American district attorney's office $530,000, equivalent to 10 percent of the proceeds from the sale of old masters' painting of the Marcoses. This supposedly is a reimbursement incurred due to the failed prosecution of Imelda Marcos and her cohorts. PCGG [Philippine Commission on Good Government] Commisssioner David Castro said the government will pay the bill, while Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said we should not, calling the bill misplaced and violative of international law on committee of nations. Ma'am, who should we follow, Mr. Castro or Mr. Chavez?

[Aquino] Well, I will ask my legal advisers to look into this. But as I understand it, we have an understanding of cooperation, of sharing of evidence and I don't know if this also entails sharing of costs. But anyway, I will ask my legal advisers to study this matter and to give me their recommendations.

[Guanzon] Second question. May we know Mrs. President what has happened to your earlier directive for all cabinet members to submit their respective department's reorganization plans? I understand your 30-day deadline had passed already and reports have it that you are encountering some resistance to this. Is it true?

[Aquino] Well, they have submitted their recommendations and it is the office of the executive secretary together with the PMS [Presidential Management System] that is assessing all of these recommendations and evaluating them and they will be giving me their recommendations.

[Unidentified reporter] Good afternoon, Mrs. President. Now that the war in the Middle East is more or less in the process of being solved, may we know Mrs. President what are the government plans toward post war construction opportunities in the Middle East? Corollary to this, may we know Mrs. President whether the governemnt intends to send engineering battalions in Saudi Arabia, as earlier proposed by the members of the Senate? Based on your statement yesterday where you echoed the interest to contribute to the infrasture in the postwar [words indistinct].

[Aquino] Well, as a matter of fact, yesterday, I wrote to both the emir of Kuwait and I have also written to the king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I have written to President Bush, to Prime Minister Major, and President Mitterrand, first, congratulating them on the cessation of hostilities in Iraq and Kuwait. I have also offered them our assistance in so far as the reconstruction and the rehabilitation of the affected areas are concerned. What I intend to do is to send again Secretary Torres to the Middle East and in particular to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait if it is already feasible at this time, so that again he can make up with his counterpart and bring to the attention of these counterparts that we are ready to offer not only Filipino labor but perhaps they could give us also an opportunity for the private sector from the Philippines to participate in the reconstruction of the affected areas.

[Question indistinct]

[Aquino] I don't think that is necessary at this time. Perhaps what is necessary is for the private sector to hopefully be allowed to take part in the reconstruction of the affected areas.

[Unidentified reporter] My second question, Mrs. President. May we know Mrs. President how does the executive intends to comply with the Supreme Court promulgation against cabinet members holding multiple posts in the light of your desire to maintain government representatives in sensitive state owned or controlled corporations as well as sequestered companies? Does this rule apply also to the spouses of cabinet members, some of whom are appointed to certain GOCC's [Government Owned and Controlled Corporations]? Corollary to this, have you accepted the resignation of Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna and Secretary Vicente Jayme?

[Aquino] Well, on Monday the Solicitor General will be filing the motion for clarification with the Supreme Court. But in our last cabinet meeting, I have already told the cabinet members who have directorships in any of the government-owned or controlled corporations that, of course, they will have to abide by the Supreme Court decision, but I am asking for the Supreme Court to allow me 30 days within which to find the right replacements for these government officials. And as you know, my main reason really in appointing cabinet members and undersecretaries to these posts was to safeguard the government interest. With regard to Secretary Azcuna and Secretary Jayme, I have already told them that I believe that they can be of greater service to me if they are in the government owned or controlled corporations. And I will be asking them to report to me on a regular basis perhaps once or twice a week, so I will have an update on how that government corporation is performing. As to when the resignation will take effect, this is a matter that we will still have to discuss. Most probably by next week, their resignations will be made effective. With regard to Secretary Jayme, I believe he will serve the government better if he will continue at the Asian Development Bank.

[Novela] Good afternoon, ma'am, I'm Luisa Novela of DIYARYO FILIPINO. My question is: May we know what actions you will take against NTC [National Telecommunications] Commissioner Florentino Ampil who has admitted his presence during the fatal hazing of Ateneo law student Leonardo Villa? Close observers of the case are accusing the palace of foot dragging in the investigation of the hazing incident because of your nonaction in the case of Ampil. May we hear your answer to this?

[Aquino] Well as a matter of fact, when I learned of the privelege speech of Congressman Marquez and the very serious charges against Commissioner Ampil, I immediately instructed Secretary Orbos through Commissioner Josie Lichauco to inform Under Secretary Ampil that it would be best if he went on leave, and I think he has already gone on leave. But in the meantime, we will be continuing with the preliminary investigation and as soon as the Department of Justice has finished with the preliminary investigation then we will be able to take all the necessary steps. What I would like to impress upon our people is that we are observing due process here and everybody is entitled to due process.

[Novela] I have a second question regarding the PAP [Philippine Assistance Program]. Donor countries as well as multilateral creditors to the Philippine Assistance Program are pressing the government for permanent revenue measures to take over the nine percent import levy. In the light of Congress' opposition to palace-endorsed new revenue generating bills, particularly on the affluent taxes, how do you intend to get the support of Congress in this regard in order not to endanger the country's economic stabilization plan?

[Aquino] Well, in fact yesterday, Speaker Mitra and I were talking on the telephone and I had impressed upon him the need for revenue generating measures and in fact he also told me that of the bills that I had endorsed to congress during the special session, the House of Representatives had already passed all of these measures. So, he was asking me to urge the Senate to pass those bills that had already been passed by the House of Representatives. At any rate, I think it is important that we again have a dialogue with the senators and congressmen so that we can eliminate this nine percent import levy and substitute such levy with other revenue generating measures.

[Unidentified reporter] Reports say that some 20 generals, I know, in a manifesto asked you to choose between them and their director Alfredo Lim whom they accused of destabilizing the government. May we have your action and moves you've done on this matter?

[Aquino] Actually it is not a question of choosing between two groups or two entities. What is important here is again, since we are living under a democracy, they're proposing to do is to investigate this and to hear from both sides at the moment. And this is what I had told the generals yesterday, that since General Lim is out of the country, I have sent word to him and I have also instructed that person to inform him about this charge of the PNP generals. And so as soon as he comes back here, I intend to have him and General Nazareno have a dialogue with me so that we can resolve these differences.

[Unidentified reporter] In another development, ma'am. Are you amenable to the opposition's call for you to appoint a minority nominated commissioner to the Comission on Elections [Comelec]?

[Aquino] I think insofar as the Commission on Elections' membership is concerned, it is not important where the nomination is coming from the majority or the minority party because I myself do not belong to any political party. And I think what our people are waiting for is that whoever we appoint to the Comelec will be persons who are perceived to be impartial and who will be competent and certainly honest in the manner of the discharge of their duties, especially with regard to the 1992 elections. At any rate, the list of nominees submitted to me by Vice President Laurel, I have forwarded to Secretary Orbos because we are screening all of these names of prospective members of the Commission on Elections because we have received quite a number of nominees. As you know, I have already nominated to the Commission on Appointments Mr. Christian Monsod as the chairman of the Commission on Elections. And I hope that this will be acted upon as soon as possible by the Commission on Appointments.

[Bersad] I'm Christine Bersad, Mrs. President. I'm with RHK. I'd like to ask you, Ambassador Richardson yesterday called for a broader concensus between the political and economic leaders of our government in doing the economic reforms. What are your plans for fulfilling this?

[Aquino] Well, as mentioned earlier, with regard to the 9 percent import levy, this was contemplated upon as a very temporary measure and we are hoping that very soon Congress will come up with the necessary revenue generating measures, so that we can already do away with the nine percent import levy. I think another concern was the matter of the foreign investment flow. I am glad that there were, I think, there were six legislators present during the MAI [Multilateral Aid Initiative]-PAP pledging session and so they heard the concerns themselves from the delegates present at the pledging session. I understand that this was specifically one of the concerns expressed that the delegates, I think would want us to have a foreign investments bill passed into law as quickly as possible. And I suppose it is important also for us to be competitive as possible with our ASEAN neighbors in the matter of attracting foreign investments.

[Unidentified reporter] This is a follow up to the Supreme Court's decision banning the government officials from maintaining more than one government post. Are there any cabinet members who have given in their resignations?

[Aquino] So far, aside from Secretary Azcuna and Secretary Jayme, it is the Solicitor General who had also faxed to me his letter of resignation with regard to his directorship into other government corporations. Because the cabinet members have been told that they should also inform all their under secretaries and assistant secretaries who are holding directorships in government corporations to make known their decisions whether to stay on in government or to continue holding their positions in these government corporations. Secretary Estanislao had told me that I think two of his under secretaries had already expressed to him a desire also to leave their positions as under secretaries. I understand that Secretary Gomez had told me that Under Secretary Paredes had also voiced a similar wish. So, we will be compiling all of these and as soon as all of these letters of resignations are received by us, I will instruct Secretary Orbos to inform the Malacanang media about all of the officials concerned who have indicated their desire either to stay on in government or resign from their official position.

[Unidentified reporter] Just a little while ago, you mentioned the need to safeguard government interest in the GOCC's. With the Supreme Court ruling, what will you do to ensure that government interest are not compromised with the removal of several cabinet members from GOCC's?

[Aquino] That is why it is very important that in looking for their replacement we find people who are equally competent and who will of course have the government's interest as their first priority. So, we will be certainly looking over very carefully the qualifications of the nominees for the directorships of these various government-owned and controlled corporations.

[Unidentified reporter] May I have one more question? Who do you intend to appoint to replace Secretary Azcuna as spokesman?

[Aquino] I have already told Secretary Gomez that perhaps he will also be acting as my spokesman. With regard to Secretary Azcuna's role as my special counsel, I will have to depend on the legal advisers that will continue to hold office here in the guesthouse among them I think Under Secretary Roberto Lucila will continue, and of course, we also have the Deputy Executive Secretary Dodo Sarmiento.

[Unidentified reporter] My first question is our World Bank mission earlier this week visited with Secretary Senen Bacani and reportedly told him that the government should find ways to shift the Filipinos from rice to wheat products like, presently there is a glut of wheat in the U.S. and as there is a glut of rice products in the Philippines. Now will we abide by the World Bank advise?

[Aquino] Actually, if it is true that he has advised Secretary Bacani this, I have not received any report with regard to that matter. But personally I am a rice eating person and I think and most Filipinos are rice eating, besides we have all our rice farmers to think about also. Well, I guess, those who want to eat bread can eat bread and those who want to eat rice can continue eating rice. I don't, since we are living under a democracy, there is no way I see myself or anybody in this government forcing people to eat either rice or bread.

[Unidentified reporter] Ma'am, another question. As 17 senators earlier today indicated their preference to allow Mrs. Marcos to return, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Biazon also said that Mrs. Marcos is no longer a threat to national security, have you any decision on this on whether to allow her to return here and face charges, criminal charges, which is required by the Swiss banks for the recovery of hidden wealth?

[Aquino] With regard to the Swiss courts' requirements, at least, as of today Chairman Castro has not officially notified me that we have received a written decision of the Supreme Court or of the Swiss court because when our Swiss lawyer was here, I had in fact asked him specifically what was required of us insofar as the filing of criminal cases or civil cases against Mrs. Marcos was concerned. So he had told me then that he had not still received the written decision of the Swiss court but as soon as they would recieve that written decision, certainly he would let us know so that we could plan for that. General Biazon had informed me that yes, while it is true that Mrs. Marcos can no longer be regarded as a threat to national security in so far as coup attempts as concerned, but we also have to look into the matter of whether there is a chance that she would be encouraging destabilizing activities. And certainly, since it is not only our democracy that we are preserving and strengthening but also making sure that our economy moves forward, all of these matters will certainly be studied well in collaboration with whatever decision, written decision the Swiss court will give to us.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]. Madam President, would you describe how you have changed as a person during the five years of your presidency?

[Aquino] Well five years is a long time and even if I were not president, I think so many changes would have really come up on me, but first and foremost considering that we gone through two coup attempts and we have had to contend with killer earthquake and of course the Gulf war, which fortunately saw a cessation of hostilities yesterday, I think the great change in me is that first of all, that I am convinced more than ever that the Filipinos really are strongly adhering to democracy and that they will, in fact a number or many of them are prepared, as they show the world in 1986, to lay down their lives for the sake of freedom and democracy. To me each day makes it even clearer that in order for us to succeed, unity is a very vital ingredient and this is what I am strongly working for, the unity of the Filipinos. I guess I have become more tolerant and more understanding in view of all the problems that we have faced, and that I guess I am not as believing as I was before. Well, I still continue to trust our people but perhaps it is a cautious trust or distrust that I have now.

[Unidentified reporter] Would you start it all over again if you were professing the same choice that was five years ago? [sentence as heard]

[Aquino] The fact that I have survived five years, maybe, I would do it again. But maybe I would do some things differently. Well, of course, this is based on hindsight now. I mean if I knew all the things then that I know now, then maybe I could have improved on certain things. But all in all, I think I am...certainly the Filipino people should be very proud that in spite of the enormous difficulties, we still are able to enjoy our democracy and that from the bankrupt economy that we inherited from the previous administration at least we were able to turn it around during the first year. And for the three succeeding years, we had a very high average of a six percent GNP growth. Last year, of course, was not too good, but at least we were still able to post three percent growth. But what is important again, and I can not stress this often enough, is that for us to succeed it is necessary for all Filipinos to try to understand each other and to unite with each other. So, thank you very much and I will give my statement to assistant secretary...[sentence interrupted by anchorman]

Aquino Remarks on Cebu Equity Bonds, Future

HK0203055091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0230 GMT 2 Mar 91

[By Tanny Rodriguez from the "Malacanang Information Service"—in English]

[Text] President Aquino said that the country will now devote its energies and resources towards building a better Philippines now that the storm has been weathered. Speaking at the launching of the P [peso] 300 million of Cebu equity bond units in Malacanang, the president stressed that investments in the bonds is an investment in the future. She declared that it is a vote of confidence in our country and in our people. It is a signal that the storm has been weathered and that a new day is gathering brightly in the horizon:

[Begin Aquino recording] The launching of the Cebu bonds indicates our ability to tap and maximize domestic financial resources. It shows our people's ingenuity and initiative. I firstly congratulate Governor Osmena and the provincial government of Cebu for this first of a bond flotation by a local government unit. I also congratulate Ayala Land for being government partner in progress. Finally, I encourage all national government agencies, particularly the Department of Finance, to provide within the framework of the law the support mechanisms for a decentralized structure between national government offices and local government units.

Investments in the Cebu bonds is an investment in the future. It is a vote of confidence in our country and in our people. It is a signal that the storm has been weathered and that a new day is gathering brightly in the horizon. Now, we shall devote our energies and our resources towards building a better Philippines for our children. I therefore urge everyone to share in this rare opportunity to secure our future by investing in the Cebu bonds. [end recording]

The president, who personally purchased the first P10,000 share of the equity bonds, urged the people to participate in this rare opportunity to secure our future by investing in the Cebu bonds. Proceeds of the sale of the units will be used to partially finance Cebu's road network construction and other infrastructure projects. The province needs some P1 billion to complete its targetted infrastructure program. Osmena said the high level of economic activity in Cebu was, to a large degree, due to the resurgence of basic freedom resulting from the

EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolution in 1986 and the support of the president through first class infrastructures like roads and communication systems. Osmena said that Cebu's investment growth rate during the last five years grew to a staggering 4,000 percent that it now has more savings than borrowings. Through the equity bonds, Osmena said that Filipinos may now participate in sound real estate ventures convertible to shares of stocks.

The president lauded Ayala Land Incorporated for being partner to government through the DBP [Development Bank of the Philippines] in the reconstruction of Cebu. She called on government agencies, particularly the Department of Finance, to provide support mechanisms for decentralized structure between national government offices and local government units. The president said she was heartened that the people has responded to her call for national unity:

[Begin Aquino recording] On several occassions, I have called upon our people to help in the slogan: Magtulungan tayo [Let us help each other]. I am glad that our people are actively responding to this call for national unity. This show of solidarity during difficult times is the beginning of the formidable partnership between the government and the private sector. I commend the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Bank of the Philippine Islands for showing the way. For our people both in government in the private sector have found the winning formula—unity and cooperation.

Today, we realize what I have been telling you for a long time—that our strength as one nation lies in unity. We can only achieve success if all of us unite. [preceeding sentence in Tagalog] [end recording]

Present during the launching were Finance Secretary Jesus Estanisloa, Cebu officials, DBP Chairman Roberto de Ocampo, and other prominent bankers.

In an interview after the Cebu launching, Savior Loinas, president of the Banking Association of the Philippines said, the successful pledging session in Hong Kong where the country received a total of $3.3 billion was a significant shot in the arm. The country is off on its recovery program as the worst is behind us and we can now look forward to an early bright future for all of us.

Makati Stock Exchange [no title heard] Eduardo Lim also shared the same optimism. he said and I qoute: "I am quite optimistic even if at the moment the market could still be at a stage of consolidation, I will make a major move forward."

Military To Take Over 2 U.S. Facilities

BK0203053691 Manila PNA in English 0431 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Manila, March 2 (OANA/PNA)—The Philippines will take over two American defense facilities when their bilateral military bases agreement expires on Sept. 16 this year.

The two installations, the Wallace Air Station and the San Miguel naval communications facility, formed part of the U.S. commitment to phase down their military presence in the Philippines.

In the just concluded Philippine-American cooperation talks (PACT) in Manila, Filipino and American panels agreed that the Philippine Air Force (PAF) will take over the Wallace Air Station, located in San Fernando town, La Anion Province, 200 kms north of Manila, to boost the country's air defense system.

The PAF will also control the radar equipment at Wallace, while the Philippine Navy will be responsible for the San Miguel naval communications station in Tarlac Province.

The Philippines will still allow U.S. access to Wallace for technical support and for training purposes for the duration of the phase-out period.

The U.S has accepted in general the Philippine position on entry and departure procedures for U.S. personnel. It agreed that Philippine visa and passport requirements would apply to U.S. civilian components and dependents. Philippine immigration authorities will also exercise authority to check the travel documents of all U.S. personnel entering the country.

Powerful Bomb Explodes Near Makati Synagogue

HK0403055891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[By Dario B. Agnote and Madelynne Dominguez]

[Text] A powerful bomb went off at dawn yesterday near a Jewish temple in Makati, shattering glass windows and blowing off into pieces a concrete cover of a manhole, the Makati police said.

Police Lt. Jovy Guttierez, head of the Makati Police Substation 4, said no one was hurt in the blast which created a 15-inch crater and blew off a 4-inch concrete cover of a manhole on the side of the building, where the Jewish Association of the Philippines was housed. The damaged building was located at the corner of De la Costa and Tordesillas streets in Makati.

Guttierez said in a telephone interview that no group admitted responsibility for the blast, but suspected pro-Iraqi terrorist groups could be behind it. It will be recalled that military authorities earlier claimed that at least three pro-Iraqi terrorist groups managed to slip into the country late last year to carry out terroristic attacks against countries or nationals supporting the United States-led allied forces.

Lieutenant General Rodolfo G. Biazon, Armed Forces chief of staff, particularly identified the so-called Abu Nidal faction of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as among these terrorist groups.

The explosion a the Jewish headquarters in Makati was the second attempt of the pro-Iraqi terrorist groups here in Manila. Last January, another failed bombing attempt occured near the American library in Buendia street, also in Makati.

Elizer Malinao, a security guard manning the damaged building, told police investigators that he saw a white Nissan Sentra with plate number DFH-198 circling the premises of the building at around 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Guttierez said the car could be the one used by the terrorists who planted the still undetermined "highly sophisticated" explosives.

Guttierez said his men found a timing device in the premises, but were still examining the debris to determine the type of explosive used.

Meantime, police authorities in Makati said they were now looking into the identity of the owner of the Nissan Sentra which was seen roaming around the damaged building Saturday night. "It could be the key to all these explosions," said Guttierez.

Military authorities have warned security guards to keep a tight watch on the buildings they are guarding to prevent similar attacks by pro-Iraqi terrorist groups which could still be in the country. Military authorities have paid particular attention to security men manning American and Jewish targets to be vigilant, adding that pro- Iraqi terrorist groups might step up their attacks following their defeat in the bloody Gulf war.

It was not clear yesterday whether the Capital Regional Command (Capcom) will deploy military and police units around American and Jewish buildings following the explosion at the Jewish headquarters. NEWSDAY tried, but failed, to get a statement from Capcom chief Brigadier General Marino Filart. But Guttierez said the Makati police would definitely take steps to prevent similar attacks. He did not elaborate.

Thailand

Provisional Constitution Announced

BK0203101591 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
2 Mar 91 p 3

["Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand of 1991"—THAI RAT headline]

[Text] Given on 1 March 1991, being the 46th year in the reign of the present king.

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has issued a royal command granting permission that it be announced:

The head of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], which successfully took over national administrative power on 23 February 1991, has submitted a report to his majesty the king that the National Peacekeeping Council has announced the abrogation of the 1978 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand and all its amendments with the desire of having a suitable constitution that will enable the administration of the country to proceed in an orderly manner, eradicate all threats to the country and the institution of the monarchy, and quickly restore peace and order. The National Peacekeeping Council also wishes to establish the administrative machanism that will help the national administration to proceed efficiently in a way suitable to the conditions of the country. In order to reach such goals, it will necessarily take a period of time. It is therefore deemed appropriate to have a provisional constitution for the administration of the country in the present situation.

To correspond with the request submitted by the head of the National Peacekeeping Council, his majesty the king has hereby commanded the following provisions be promulgated and enforced as the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, pending the announcement of the Constitution to be drafted in accordance with the present Constitution.

Article 1: Thailand is a single, indivisable kingdom. The king is the head of state and commander of the Thai Armed Forces.

Article 2: Sovereign power comes from the Thai people. The king, as the head of state exercises the power in accordance with this interim constitution.

Article 3: The monarch exercises legislative power through the National Assembly, executive power through the Cabinet, and judicial power through the court.

Article 4: The monarch holds revered inviolable status; no one may violate, accuse, or sue him in any way.

Article 5: The king selects and appoints a qualified person as chairman of the Privy Council; he also selects and appoints Privy Council members, not exceeding 14 in number, to form the Privy Council.

The Privy Council has the duty of giving advice to the king in all activities and issues that the king raises for consultation.

The selection and appointment of Privy Council members, as well as the termination of their membership, is based on royal discretion.

Article 6: There shall be a national assembly to draft a new constitution and make laws.

In drafting the constitution, the National Assembly takes into consideration the holding of a general election during 1991.

Article 7: The National Legislative Assembly [sapha nitibanyat haengchat] shall comprise no less than 200 members but no more than 300, appointed by the king as proposed by the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [sapha raksa khwamsangop haengchat]. If memberships become vacant, the king may appoint qualified individuals as replacements.

The chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly shall be the one who countersigns the royal proclamation on appointing National Legislative Assembly members.

Article 8: In case any National Legislative Assembly member acts in such a way as to degrade the National Legislative Assembly, or opposes the operation of other legislative assembly members, a group of at least 20 National Legislative Assembly members can petition the president of the National Legislative Assembly for the expulsion of the National Legislative Assembly member in question.

The expulsion vote requires the endorsement of at least two-thirds the number of all existing National Legislative Assembly members on the voting day.

Article 9: The king appoints, in accordance with a majority vote of the National Legislative Assembly members, the National Legislative Assembly president and one or more vice presidents.

The chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly countersigns the royal proclamation appointing the president and vice presidents of the National Legislative Assembly.

Article 10: The National Legislative Assembly appoints a commission of no more than 20 members to draft a constitution for submission to the National Legislative Assembly for consideration.

The commission may include people who are not members of the National Legislative Assembly.

Article 11: After receiving the draft constitution from the commission, the National Legislative Assembly shall review it in three readings. The first and second readings shall be done in accordance with the meeting regulations of the National Legislative Assembly. The third reading shall be held 15 days after the second reading.

In the third reading, at least three-fourths of the National Legislative Assembly members must be present to form a quorum.

Voting in the third reading shall be done by roll call; and there must be votes in favor by at least two-thirds of the number of the National Legislative Assembly members present on the voting day to pass the draft constitution.

After the draft constitution has been approved on the third reading, the National Legislative Assembly president shall present it to the king for his royal signature.

In the promulgation of the new constitution, the National Legislative Assembly president countersigns the royal proclamation.

Article 12: If on the third reading, there are insufficient votes in favor to pass the draft constitution, the National Legislative Assembly shall produce a new draft and process it in accordance with the stipulations stated above. If this makes it impossible to hold a general election within the year, then the deadline for the election shall be extended by 120 days after the end of 1991.

Article 13: If the second draft constitution produced under Article 12 is not approved either on the first or third reading according to Article 11, then all National Legislative Assembly members shall have their membership terminated on the day of rejecting the second draft constitution. The National Peacekeeping Assembly and the Cabinet, in joint meeting, shall then reconsider the draft constitution produced under Article 10 or Article 12, or they may revise the past constitution and complete the revision within 30 days after the rejection and present it to the king for his royal signature and promulgation.

In the joint meeting under the above paragraph, the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly presides as chairman of the meeting.

The action under the main paragraph must take into consideration the need to hold a general election as soon as possible.

The promulgation of a constitution under this article shall be countersigned by the prime minister.

Article 14: Under the provision of Article 11, the National Legislative Assembly must have at least one-third of its members present on the meeting day to form a quorum.

Article 15: During a meeting of the National Legislative Assembly, all assembly members shall have the privilege of declaring information, voicing opinions, or voting. They cannot be sued for these privileged actions.

The privilege under the preceding clause gives protection to members of the press council and publishers covering the proceedings of the meeting under the order of the president of the National Legislative Assembly.

When a National Legislative Assembly member is charged, or is in the process of being charged in a criminal case, the member shall be released and his trial suspended if requested by the National Legislative Assembly president.

Article 16: The National Legislative Assembly has the power to lay down regulations on the selection and operation of the National Legislative Assembly president and vice presidents, and of National Legislative Assembly commissions; on assembly meeting procedures; on meeting procedures to consider a draft constitution; on procedures in regard to passing laws, and on proposing motions that do not involve seeking clarification of the Cabinet or explanation; on procedures for voting; and on enforcing the regulations.

Article 17: The king makes laws in accordance with the recommendations and consent of the National Legislative Assembly.

Only the Cabinet can submit draft bills.

Article 18: There shall be a National Peacekeeping Assembly consisting of members as stipulated in National Peacekeeping Council Announcements Nos. 2 and 5, dated 23 February 1991.

The chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly may appoint assembly members not exceeding 15 in number.

The chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council shall be chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, one deputy chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council shall be deputy chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, and the secretary general of the National Peacekeeping Council shall be secretary general of the National Peacekeeping Assembly.

The National Peacekeeping Assembly may appoint National Peacekeeping Council members or nonmembers as one or more deputy secretary general.

In case the assembly chairman is absent or unable to perform his duty, the deputy chairman shall function as the assembly chairman. In case both are absent or unable to perform their duties, the remaining assembly members shall select one from among them to function as assembly chairman.

Article 19: The National Peacekeeping Assembly has, in conjunction with the Cabinet, the duty to formulate national administration policy, which the Cabinet shall declare to the National Legislative Assembly, and to propose or suggest ideas or any matter that it considers will be useful in national administration. The National Peacekeeping Assembly also has other powers as stipulated in this interim constitution.

In a joint meeting of the National Peacekeeping Assembly and the Cabinet, the assembly chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Article 20: Whenever appropriate, the National Peacekeeping Assembly chairman or the prime minister may call a joint meeting of the assembly and the Cabinet in order to consider national administration issues and tackle problems therein.

Article 21: The king appoints a prime minister as recommended by the National Peacekeeping Assembly chairman, and ministers as recommended by the prime minister to form the Cabinet.

Article 22: The king has the power to relieve the prime minister from his post when recommended by the National Peacekeeping Assembly chairman, and the ministers from their posts when recommended by the prime minister.

Article 23: The chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly shall countersign the proclamation appointing the prime minister or relieving him of the premiership.

The prime minister countersigns the proclamation appointing or relieving ministers.

Article 24: The prime minister and the ministers may not be concurrently members of the National Legislative Assembly. Neither can they hold any post in a profit-making business.

The prime minister and the ministers have the right to attend meetings of the National Legislative Assembly to announce policies, or to explain or voice opinions, but they do not have the right to vote. They shall be protected by the privileges under Article 15.

Article 25: The king has the power to issue royal decrees that do not contravene the law.

Article 26: In case of an emergency concerning national peace and security, public safety, economic security, natural disaster, or a need to have a law on taxation or finance which must be handled in secret to protect the national interest, the prime minister, with the consent of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, shall inform the king of the need to issue an emergency decree for enforcement as law.

After the promulgation of the emergency decree, the Cabinet shall submit the decree to the National Legislative Assembly without delay. If the National Legislative Assembly approves it, the decree will become law. If the National Legislative Assembly rejects it, then the decree shall be invalidated but this invalidation will not be retroactive to cover actions carried out while the decree was in effect.

In either case, there shall be an announcemet in the Royal Gazette. If the decree is rejected, the decree shall be invalidated on the date the rejection is announced in the Royal Gazette.

Article 27: In case either the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly or the prime minister deems it necessary to prevent, stop, or suppress activities that undermine national peace and security; threaten the monarchy, national economy, national administration, public order and morality, national resources, or public health; regardless of whether such activities or threats take place before or after the promulgation of this interim constitution, or whether they take place inside or outside the kingdom, the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly or the prime minister, or both, with the approval of a joint meeting of the Assembly and the prime minister, has the power to do what is necessary to deal with them. All orders and action of the National Peacekeeping Assembly chairman or the prime minister, or both, under this article, shall be deemed legal and in compliance with all due process of law.

After the National Peacekeeping Assembly chairman or the prime minister, or both, have ordered any action under the preceding paragraph, the chairman of the National Legislative Assembly must be duly informed.

Article 28: All law, royal notes, and proclamations that have to do with national administration must be countersigned by the prime minister or a minister.

Article 29: All judges and arbitrators have freedom in trying cases in accordance with the law.

Article 30: In case no provision in this interim constitution is applicable in a certain situation, all decisions must be based on Thailand's administrative customs and traditions under the democratic system.

In case of a dispute within the National Legislative Assembly or the Cabinet under the preceding paragraph, the National Legislative Assembly shall make a final judgment.

Article 31: In case of a violation, conflict, or dispute involving any part of the interim constitution, the National Legislative Assembly shall make a final judgment.

Article 32: All actions, announcements, or orders of the leader of the National Peacekeeping Council or the council itself before the promulgation of the interim constitution, including those relating to the seizure of national administrative power on 23 February 1991, regardless of how or in which manner they were carried out, and whether they were enforced under legislative, executive, or judicial power, those actions, announcements, or orders as well as the persons who carried out those announcements and orders, shall be deemed legal.

Article 33: Before the formation of a Cabinet, the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly shall function as the prime minister, and the National Peacekeeping Assembly as the Cabinet.

Countersigned: General Sunthon Khongsomphong, leader of the National Peacekeeping Council

Sunthon Remarks on Constitution

BK0203030291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Mar 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] The National Peacekeeping Council's [NPKC] provisional Constitution, approved by His Majesty the King yesterday, requires a general election to be held within 14 months and gives the military junta substantial control over a caretaker government to be formed within a few days.

The NPKC had pledged to allow a general election within six months.

The Constitution empowers NPKC leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and the caretaker prime minister to exercise absolute power if either deem it necessary to prevent activities which threaten national security, the economy or "good public morality," among other possibilities.

The Constitution, which contains 33 articles, allows Sunthon in his capacity as the NPKC chairman to ask the king to remove the caretaker prime minister.

About 200 senior armed forces officials led by Sunthon gathered at the Army Hall at around 5 pm yesterday for a televised Constitution-signing ceremony after His Majesty approved the draft document.

Speaking to reporters after the short ceremony, Sunthon said the NPKC, which toppled the Chatchai government in a bloodless coup on Feb 23, would soon "transform itself into an advisory body which will help oversee administrative work and give advice to" the caretaker government.

Sunthon said the interim Constitution "is suitable to the current situation in the country."

The Constitution apparently allows the NPKC to maintain considerable power after the caretaker government is formed to prepare for the general election.

The Constitution empowers the NPKC leader to nominate the caretaker prime minister for royal approval. It stipulates that the prime minister appoint the caretaking Cabinet.

Article 22 of the interim Constitution states that "the king has the power to relieve the prime minister of his post when recommended by the council chairman," referring to the head of the NPKC.

Sunthon said he would nominate the caretaker prime minister "within a few days," but declined to name a favoured candidate.

Asked to comment on Article 22, Sunthon said: "Removing the prime minister is a power of His Majesty the King. Our council has the right to make suggestions."

Legal expert Mechai Ruchuphan, who led a committee which drafted the interim charter, defended the provisions that seem to allow considerable NPKC control over the caretaker government.

"We don't have a Parliament now that can oust the prime minister. The power therefore was given to the existing council," Mechai said.

Article 19 of the Constitution authorizes the NPKC to jointly map out national policies with the caretaker government. It requires that joint Cabinet-NPKC meetings be chaired by the council leader.

Sunthon yesterday denied that some candidates had rejected the NPKC's invitation to head the interim government.

Observers have said leading figures tipped to become prime minister during this crucial period might not want the post if the caretaker government would be subject to substantial NPKC control.

"We already have candidates, but we haven't decided who should be chosen," Sunthon said.

The Constitution requires the formation of a "National Assembly" that will comprise 200 to 300 members.

The charter empowers the NPKC to nominate members of the National Assembly for royal approval.

The National Assembly will form a committee of no more than 20 members to draft the permanent Constitution.

Article 6 of the interim Constitution says the National Assembly, in working out the permanent Constitution, "shall take into consideration holding a general election within 1991."

Article 12 says if the National Assembly fails to pass a permanent Constitution by the end of this year, the general elections schedule can be postponed for 120 days after the year-end.

If the National Assembly rejects the first draft of the permanent Constitution and rejects a revised verison again, the assembly will be automatically dissolved, according to Article 13. The NPKC and the Cabinet then would jointly draft a permanent Constitution within 30 days. The joint meetings to draft the Constitution will be chaired by the NPKC leader.

The interim Constitution also reflects the NPKC's desire to separate the executive and legislative branches. Article 24 prohibits the caretaker prime minister and his Cabinet memebers from concurrently serving as members of the National Assembly.

Article 26 allows the prime minister to issue royal decrees "with prior approval from the NPKC" in case of an emergency concerning the country's political or economic stability.

The NPKC leader and the caretaker prime minister are given absolute power by Article 27 of the interim Constitution to deal with any incident deemed detrimental to national security, the monarchy or the economy.

"In case either the National Peacekeeping Council chairman or the prime minister deems it necessary to prevent, stop or suppress activities that undermine national peace and security, threaten the monarchy, national economy or administration ... (they), with approval from a joint meeting between the (National Peacekeeping) Council and the prime minister, can take any action necessary ... which will (then) be deemed legal and in compliance with all due process of law," says Article 27.

Anan Panyarachun Announced Prime Minister

BK0203130291 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1238 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Announcement on appointment of the prime minister:

Royal Signature: King Phumiphon Adunyadet, Rex.

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has graciously given permission to announce that, per the promulgation of the Constitution of the Kingdom and for the appropriateness in connection with the current situation, pending the promulgation of the constitution to be drafted by the National Legislative Assembly and submitted for the royal endorsement, the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA] has humbly informed his majesty the king that Anan Panyarachun should be entrusted by his majesty the king to hold the position of premiership.

Empowered by Article 21 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of 1991, his majesty the king has therefore appointed Anan Panyarachun as prime minister to administer the country's affairs from now on.

Announced on 2 March 1991, the 46th year under the reign of the present king.

Countersigned by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the NPA.

Anan Remarks on Tasks

BK0303014691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Mar 91 pp A1, A3

[By Suthichai Yun]

[Text] The new prime minister, Anan Panyarachun, said yesterday an urgent task of the interim government which he hoped to form in "three to four days" is to make it clear to the world that Thailand's economic policy remains intact and that continuity of the market-oriented direction will be a top priority despite the Feb 23 military takeover.

"Thailand is going through a crucial period," said Anan hours before his appointment, adding: "We must return to parliamentary democracy as soon as possible. There is no excuse to run the country under martial law one minute longer than necessary."

Anan later said former premier Chatchai Chunhawan, whose government was toppled in last Saturday's coup, will be released from the military custody once a new Cabinet is formed.

Anan's appointment as the country's 18th prime minister last night is seen as an obvious attempt by the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] to improve its image in the international scene and underline the intenation of the military to set up a government with an independent, liberal group of respected civilian leaders.

Anan will head an interim government whose primary job is to organize a general election within 14 months. Anan said last night the provisional government will comprise mainly civilians whose backgrounds and qualifications will be acceptable to the public.

He stressed honesty and intregity as being among the qualities of his would-be Cabinet members.

His Majesty the King signed the royal command appointing Anan, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries, yesterday afternoon during an audience granted to Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council and Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, the NPKC secretary-general in Chiang Mai.

The ceremony for Anan, 59, to accept the royal command from Gen Sunthon was held at the Supreme Command and broadcast live on television at about 7.40 pm.

Speaking to reporters after receiving the royal command, Anan tried to play down fears that the provisional constitution which was promulgated on Friday gave the military considerable control over the civilian government. However, he suggested that he did not agree with certain clauses in the charter.

"You may not know me well. I have had long experience in both civil service and private sector. I am a person with independent thinking," he said.

But Anan admitted that since he will have to work with the NPKC he may have to compromise in certain situations. "Compromises are something unavoidable in life provided that they do not violate principles," he stressed.

When asked about the main motivation for his decision to assume the premiership, Anan said though he did not agree with some methods of the military junta, its leaders had convinced him they had good intention toward the country.

Anan Panyarachun was one of the five leading candidates for the premiership. The others were Asa Sarasin, president of Phadaeng Industry and former permanent secretry of Foreign Ministry, former foreign minister ACM [Acting Chief Marshall] Sitthi Sawetsila, Bangkok Bank Executive Chairman Amnuai Wirawan and former interior minister Gen Sit Chirarot, informed sources said.

In his earlier interview with The Nation, Anan made a strong appeal to the military leaders: return the country to parliamentary democracy as soon as possible.

He said the new government should emphasize the continuing process to allow the private sector to play an important role in the country's economy.

Privatization to improve management efficiency will also be high on the national agenda, he said.

"The thrust of the message to the world community is the continuity of Thailand's economic policies which have enabled the country to achieve an impressive economic growth in the past few years," Anan said.

He said the conomic advisers to the National Peacekeeping Council had agreed in their first round of discussions that the new administration must let it be known to the international community that Thailand will continue with its policy of liberalization of its foreign exchange policy.

"Of equal importance is the emphasis that we will continue to maintain our financial discipline," Anan, former executive chairman of the Saha Union Group, said.

Anan sressed the urgency and importance for the new government to demonstrate that the military takeover does not lead to fundamental changes in the economic, financial and business directions of this country.

"The world is watching Thailand. This is a very crucial year for our economy, especially now that the Gufl War has come to an end. This is the time to seize the golden opportunity to make a turnaround for the economy. We cannot afford to mishandle our communication with foreign investors and other countries we deal with. The new government must be very responsive and imaginative under the present circumstances," the chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries said.

Substance, he said, is more important than image in projecting Thailand's position in the world community after the recent political change to make sure that "we are not seen as having put our economic structure or policies back several years."

Anan said the new leaders should also take this opportunity to revamp existing rules, regulations or laws which hamper economic development. Some proposed changes had been blocked by vested poltiical interests, he indicated.

He added that major infrastructure projects, which have come under critical scrutiny by the public and the new military junta, should be allowed to proceed.

"The country badly needs more telephones, highways, elevated roads, satellites etc ... Our development efforts can be achieved only if we launch these major projects. And if any of these schemes carry some suspicious elements, they should be investigated case by case. But it would be wrong to shelve them just because they are huge, involving large-scale investments. In fact, the implementation of these major infrastructure projects is a step in the right direction," Anan added.

The military junta that seized power last Saturday charged that many of the mega-projects initiated by the previous administration were rife with corruption and suggested that they would be reviewed.

He stressed that the new government will have to maintain close economic and political ties with all countries and to avoid any misunderstanding that might have been cuased by the recent military takeover.

Government To Help Poor

BK0403015591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The Government will heed the plight of the poor and will try to achieve an even spread of wealth, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said yesterday.

"The narrowing of the wealth gap is not too difficult. More people could be pushed to live above the poverty line," he said citing the explosion that ravaged Khlong Toey port leaving thousands of slum dwellers homeless.

The problem facing the country does not altogether pertain to economic growth but to such other major issues as quality of life and the environment, the interim Prime Minister said in an interview at his home yesterday.

"The interim government will not be able to solve these problems, which have persisted for so long, but at least it can start laying more solid groundwork leading to a solution."

Mr Anan said that after consultations, he decided against visiting Khlong Toey Port because he has not yet properly assumed the premiership, while the National Peacekeeping Assembly and private organisations promptly looked after relief.

"As a Thai, I was saddened by what's happened, which pointed to the issue that general economic growth is fine but poverty persists," he said.

"Therefore, the Government must heed the plight of the poor. There are problems that we must have measures to deal with in both the short and longer terms."

The Prime Minister spent the whole of yesterday holding discussions "with a lot of personalities."

Mr Anan, a former diplomat who made a successful career in the private sector, said the interim government will continue implementing economic policy along the course set by the administrations of Gen Prem Tinsulanon and Gen Chatchai Chunhawan.

"There are no urgent issues. It's a matter of continuation of policy that has proceeded well since previous administrations," he said.

Free enterprise, minimum intervention by the state, maintaining financial stability and mobilising private resources to fund costly infrastructure development will basically characterise Thai economic policy under Mr Anan's administration.

Mr Anan, formerly Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said there will be no fundamental change in foreign policy, although "some initiatives may have to be reviewed." He did not elaborate.

"In general, we will maintain good relations with neighbouring countries, as well as superpowers of different ideologies, at the same time enhancing and promoting greater intra-ASEAN cooperation."

Asked if his background in the foreign service will draw him to focus on the Foreign Ministry, the Prime Minister said: "In every ministry there are qualified, capable people with integrity who serve the interests of the country more than their own. We intend to give full authority and freedom to whoever we have invited to take charge."

But since the Government must be collectively responsible, major policy will require Cabinet consulation, he said.

On Cambodia, he said the famous slogan of former prime minister Chatchai to turn the Indochinese battlefield into a marketplace illustrated the globally prevalent theme of non-confrontation but cooperation.

"This policy will certainly stay. Every country is promoting cooperation in politics, economics and greater business contacts. It's not something bizarre that Thailand should do it with Indochina when everyone in the world community is doing the same."

The Premier said the complete Cabinet line-up, which will not exceed 40 members, could be out in a few days.

"To have a Cabinet that absolutely pleases all will be impossible. Once it is approved by His Majesty the King, I just hope that Thais will deem the line-up credible and acceptable. To have everybody completely satisfied should not be the case."

Mr Anan insists he has no political aspiration and his personal contacts with prominent figures do not reflect anything more than the fact that he has served them before.

Mr Anan was Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs when Gen Chatchai served as Foreign Minister for then Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot.

I've never been, nor am interested in politics. I am just lucky to know Gen Chatchai. I hope M.R. Khukrit will look kindly on me, Khun Phichai (Ratthakun, the former Democrat Party leader) will still like me and other political parties will not regard me as their foe because I have no interest in politics," he said.

Anan Has 'Substantional Freedom'

BK0403014391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 91 p B2

[Text] National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) leaders yesterday reaffirmed that caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun would have substantial freedom in forming his provisional Cabinet.

"The formation of the new Cabinet will be handled only by the prime minister," said NPKC Secretary-General Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi.

But NPKC leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong said there would be consultations between the prime minister and the military council, with the latter planning to make some "suggestions" concerning certain ministries.

"Now we let him think freely," Sunthon said. "After this we have to meet to look at things together."

The NPKC chief confirmed the caretaker government would include some military figures.

"Actually we want to stay completely away. But at this crucial moment we have to offer helping hands. We won't squeeze the prime minister," Sunthon said.

Anan's appointment as prime minister on Saturday was seen as attempt by the NPKC, which seized power from the Chatchai government in the Feb 23 coup, to improve its international image.

Anan was appointed one day after the NPKC's interim Constitution was promulgated. The NPKC maintains considerable power under the interim Constitution, prompting concerns about possible large-scale military interference in what is supposed to be a civilian rule leading to a general election.

Sunthon said how many ministers would be appointed to the interim Cabinet would depend on the prime minister.

Itsaraphong stressed that Anan would select Cabinet members himself without interference by the NPKC.

"We won't influence him. He will have full rights to pick Cabinet members at his own will," the deputy army commander-in-chief said.

Itsaraphong added that Anan's formation of the caretaker government would be complete within a few days.

"We almost have full democracy now. Just a bit of it is missing," the NPKC secretary-general said.

Prime Minister Profiled

BK0203155791 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] His majesty the king granted an audience to General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, at Phuphing Palace late this afternoon to obtain the royal signature appointing Anan Panyarachun the new prime minister. Anan Panyarachun is at present chairman of the board of Saha Union Company and president of the Federation of Thai Industries. He was once approached by former Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan to be commerce minister, but he declined the offer.

Anan Panyarachun was born in 1932. He received secondary education at Bangkok Christian College, and completed secondary school at Dulwich College in England. He continued his studies at Cambridge University, and received a bachelor's degree in law, with honor, in 1955. He started serving as an official at the Foreign Ministry in 1955. In 1967 he was appointed Thai ambassador to the United Nations and Thai ambassador to Canada. In 1972 he was appointed Thai ambassador to the United States and Thailand's permanent representative at the United Nations' office in New York. He returned to Thailand in 1976 and became permanent secretary at the Foreign Ministry. His last official position was as ambassador to the FRG from 1977 to 1978. He resigned from service at the Foreign Ministry in 1979.

Anan Panyarachun joined the Saha Union Group of Companies as chairman of the executive board in 1985. He was also chairman of Sime Darby Company of Malaysia, the Siam Commercial Bank, and adviser to IBM Company Thailand. He is also a board member of the PTA Company, the Star Block Company, and the Eastern Star Real Estate Company. He was also chairman of the ASEAN Board of Trade and Industries from 1982 to 1984. From 1982 to 1985 he was president of the 15-man board of the ASEAN task force for cooperation appointed by the ASEAN governments comprising members from governments and private sectors. He is an honorary board member of the National Institute of Development Administration and a member of the board of Thailand's Development Research Institute, the Asian Institute of Technology, and a board member of the U.S.-ASEAN technology transfer center. In October last year, he was appointed member of the World Management Council.

New Prime Minister To Meet King 5 Mar

BK0403134291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Bangkok, March 4 (AFP)—Thailand's military-appointed premier, Anan Panyarachun, was to have an audience with King Phumipon Adunyadet on Tuesday to seek approval for his new cabinet line-up, THAI NEWS AGENCY reported.

Mr. Anan told reporters at his Sukhumvit residence that he expected to announce the new cabinet within two to three days, the report said Monday.

According to reliable sources, three important cabinet portfolios will go to the military—interior, defense and communications—while the rest will be controlled by civilian technocrats.

Mr. Anan, a diplomat-turn-businessman, was named caretaker prime minister on Saturday by the military junta a week after it overthrew the elected government of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The junta, known as the National Peacekeeping Assembly, will continue to run the country until the 59-year-old Mr. Anan completes his cabinet and is officially sworn in.

National Peacekeeping Council Announcements

36th, 37th, 39th-43d Reported

BK0103073891

[Editorial Report] Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai at 1107 GMT on 28 February carries "Announcement No. 36 of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] on establishing the office of the NPKC" noting the office's location and staffing. The announcement is four minutes long.

At 1130 GMT on 28 February, Channel 5 carries "Announcement No. 37 of the NPKC on the revision of the code of revenue" dealing with personal income tax collection and calculation formula.

At 1314 GMT on 28 February, Channel 5 carries "Announcement No. 41 of the NPKC on adjusting oil prices" instructing the Commerce Ministry to consider reducing oil prices "most urgently." The anouncement is one minute long.

At 1350 GMT on 28 February, Channel 5 carries "Announcement No. 39 of the NPKC on the amendment of the traffic law" giving more power to officials to solve traffic congestion problems. The announcement is four minutes long.

At 1456 GMT on 28 February, Channel 5 carries "Announcement No. 40 of the NPKC on the amendment of the royal decree of 1977 on the establishment of the Mass Communications Authority of Thailand [MCOT]" dealing with the appointment, removal, salary, and length of service of the MCOT Executive Committee. The announcement is five minutes long.

At 0516 GMT on 1 March, Channel 5 carries "Announcement No. 42 of the NPKC" which "rescinds Announcement No. 11 of the NPKC after the promulgation of the constitution of 1991." The announcement is under a minute in length.

At 0520 GMT on 1 March, Channel 5 carries "Announcement No. 43 of the NPKC" which permits civilian, military, police, state enteprise, and local officials to be appointed to national legislative councils and regulates their financial compensation. The announcement is five minutes long.

44th on Assessing Land

BK0103115891

[Editorial Report] Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai at 1010 GMT on 1 March carries "Announcement No. 44 of the National Peacekeeping Council" on procedures for the assessment of the value of expropriated land. The announcement is eight minutes long.

50th on Reducing Prices

BK0103153091

[Editorial Report] Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai on 1352 GMT on 1 March carries "Announcement No. 50 of the National Peacekeeping Council," on reducing the price of consumer products, instructing the Commerce Ministry to consider reducing the price of consumer products. The announcement is one minute long.

National Peacekeeping Council Communique No. 7

BK0103101891

[Editorial Report] Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0900 GMT on 1 March carries "Communique No. 7 of the National Peacekeeping Council" warning against deception of workers by luring them to nonexistent jobs abroad and threatening drastic legal action against offenders. The communique is one minute long.

1st National Peacekeeping Assembly Announcement

BK0203095291 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0810 GMT 2 Mar 91

["First announcement" of the National Peacekeeping Assembly; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly—live or recorded]

[Text] Empowered by the second item of the 36th announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council dated 28 February 1991, the organizational structure of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA] Office is announced as follows:

1. The NPA Office consists of:
The NPA Chairman's Working Unit
1.2 The NPA Working Unit
1.3 The Policy Working Unit
1.4 The Operation Working Unit
1.5 The Secretary Working Unit

2. The official units in item one have directors or persons holding other positions equivalent to that of unit director as their heads responsible for the performance of officials in the units and of the units as assigned by the NPA secretary general. Assistants to unit directors or heads can be appointed to assist in supervising officials in the units and carrying out other official undertakings.

3. The units established in accordance with item one can be named division, sections, or units with different names by the announcements of the NPA secretary general.

4. The NPA secretary general will decide the numbers of staff members and their ranks of the units in items one, two, and three.

This announcement is effective immediately.

Announced: 2 March 1991

Signed: General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the NPA

1st National Peacekeeping Assembly Communique

BK0203094091 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0710 GMT 2 Mar 91

["First Communique" of the National Peacekeeping Assembly; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly; date not given;—live or recorded]

[Text] Via the consequences of the royal decree issued by His Majesty the King on appointment of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] on 24 February 1991 and the promulgation of the interim constitution of 1991 effective as of 1 March 1991, the NPKC is, therefore, transformed into the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA] with the head of the NPKC as its chairman. It is deemed appropriate to inform the general public of the following details:

1. The NPA consists of individuals and groups of individuals as follows:
1.1 Chairman, vice chairmen, secretary general, and members of the assembly whose total number must not exceed 21 with unlimited number of deputy secretaries general.
1.2 The Board of Advisers, transformed from the former Advisory Board of the NPKC by the Announcements No. 17, 25, and 46, consists of 37 persons. Their number can be increased as deemed necessary.
1.3 The Assets Verification Committee appointed by the Announcements of the NPKC Announcements No. 26 and 45 consists of nine people.
1.4 Officials empowered to carry out various undertakings by the NPKC announcements and orders.

2. The NPA will function in cooperation with the Cabinet in formulating the policies for the administration of the state affairs to be presented by the Cabinet to the National Legislative Assembly and give advice and suggestions to the Cabinet.

3. For the prevention and suppression of all acts detrimental to public security, national security, safety of the monarchy, national economy, government, acts of harassing peace and order and good morals of the people, acts of destroying the country's natural resouces, and acts which can jeopardize public health and hygiene which take place before or after the promulgation of the interim constitution inside and outside the Kingdom, the NPA chairman or the prime minister—or both—with the joint consent from the NPA and the prime minister, are empowered to issue orders or take any action for the aforementioned purposes. Such orders and actions by the NPA chairman or the prime minister or both of them as well as the implementation of such orders are considered legal.

4. Pending the appointment of the cabinet, the NPA chairman shall perform the duties of the prime minister and the NPA functions as the cabinet.

5. To ensure the continuation and smoothness of the administration of the country, the individuals, groups of individuals, committees, and officials appointed by the NPKC and NPA announcements and orders are instructed to report to work at the NPA Office at Building 608 inside the compound of the Supreme Command Headquarters of the Defense Ministry on Si Ayutthaya as of now.

The public is hereby informed.

Signed: General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the NPA

Army Chief Suchinda Remarks on Explosions, Fire

BK0203102891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Bangkok, March 2 (AFP)—At least five people were killed and scores injured Saturday after two explosions in a warehouse at the capital's Khlong Toey port sparked off a massive fire that threatened to engulf the area, police said.

Nearly four hours after the double blast, the fire continued to rage out of control and threatened to destroy a sprawling shanty town alongside the port.

Thousands of people living in the makeshift town grabbed what few possessions they owned and fled to safety. Dozens of wooden shacks were on fire.

Hundreds of firefighters were called in from all over the city to try and control the blaze.

Army Chief General Suchinda Khraprayun, a key leader in last Saturday's bloodless coup which overthrew the government of Premier Chatchai Chunhawan, was quickly on the scene. He immediately ordered troops to be brought in to help the civilian firefighters.

According to police, the explosions occurred in a warehouse containing chemicals. A hugh white cloud rose over the port and was clearly visible over 20 kilometers (ten miles) away.

First reports said the warehouse had been used to store explosives, but this was later denied by police.

A witness living in an apartment building near the depot described the blast as a "big bang with a huge mushroom cloud of white smoke."

The explosion was followed shortly by a second blast that shattered shop windows nearby. Minor explosions continued for an hour as the fire spread to adjoining warehouses.

A police officer said the blast was believed to have been caused by high dry-season temperatures at the depot, where the inflammable chemicals were being stored, about one kilometer (half a mile) away from the river and outside the port compound.

Special police units were called in to investigate, the officer said.

Gen. Suchinda, talking to reporters on the scene, said the explosions, "probably resulted from an accident."

Sunthon: Fires Not Acts of Hostile Elements

BK0303144391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, supreme commander and chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA], granted an interview to newsmen after returning from Chiang Rai Province where he had an audience with Princess Mother Somdet Phra Sinakharinthra. Asked about the cabinet formation, he said it rests with the new prime minister who will choose his cabinet members first and bring the list for consultation with the NPA. Asked about the frequent fires in recent days, he believed they were accidents and ruled out the theory that they were activities of hostile elements.

[Begin recording, in progress] ...[Sunthon] Well, it is the duty of our intelligence to check on activities detrimental to our country and our national security.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are there any measures planned by the NPA in the wake of these frequent fires?

[Sunthon] We will follow up each case. Last night we ordered the director of the Port Authority that new godowns to be built after the fire must have spaces between the rows of buildings so that fire engines can have access. Explosives or chemical substances will not be stored there, but they will be stored at Laem Chabang Port. We will build an open godown there, with open grills to allow air ventilation. In that case, only part of the storage will be destroyed if there is any accident.

[Correspondent] What about today's fire at the Central Department Store?

[Sunthon] Was there a fire?

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Sunthon] How big? [Passage indistinct] Well it is the responsibility of the owner of the building to check on electric wires or flammable material. This is a precautionary measure usually taken by the military. Every building must be equipped with fire extinguishers. Officials of those offices or buildings must be careful about safety. People frequenting those places should not be careless. For example, cigarette smokers are not supposed to throw cigarette butts wherever they want. Anyway, let us not jump to a conclusion that it was arson.

[Correspondent] Are you still keeping track of underground activities?

[Sunthon] We are doing that all the time. [end recording]

Sunthon, Suchinda Interviewed on Chatchai Release

BK0403143491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong, in his capacity as chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA], received flowers from groups of people expressing their support for work carried out by the NPA at the Supreme Command Headquarters this morning. He then granted an interview to reporters on the fire incidents in recent days, including the one at Khlong Toei Port. Asked about any preventive measures planned, he said that authorities must cooperate with owners of the buildings to step up safety measures. Building owners must pay more attention to their own property and have fire extinguishers ready. He said that preliminary measures had already been taken to help Khlong Toei fire victims. Authorities are estimating the damages. Temporary shelters will be built to accomodate fire victims. Concerning the cause of the fire, he said it could come from reaction of chemicals. Officials continued to put out the fire at certain spots. He said the military is ready to provide more help if needed by the Port Authority of Thailand.

Asked by newsmen how true was the report saying several militarymen will be named on the new cabinet lineup, the supreme commander said that there are not as many as it was reported. He also said that the list of the new cabinet members will be presented to his majesty the king by the prime minister.

Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong, in his capacity as NPA chairman, granted an interview to newsmen at the Supreme Command Headquarters at noon today. He said that public opinion is always welcomed although a new prime minister had been appointed. He said the prime minister is a good person who is generally accepted by the people.

Asked about the release of former Prime Minister Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan, Gen. Sunthon said no consideration had been made on this as it is not an urgent matter. He said it might take some time. As for a criteria for the release, he said it could not be revealed. But he confirmed that Gen. Chatchai would be released certainly. The NPA chairman said that proposals from academics are always welcomed. They will be taken into consideration.

Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, deputy chairman of the NPA, when asked by newsmen about public reaction to the newly appointed prime minister, said he did not know about it, but the mass media should know. Asked about the release of former Prime Minister Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan, Gen. Suchinda said no consideration had been made on this matter. Asked about a report saying Chatchai would be released once the cabinet is formed, Gen. Suchinda said the NPA will decide on this matter since Chatchai is under NPA detention.

Sunthon Statement on Martial Law, Unreast Viewed

BK0203021391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Mar 91 PP A1, A2

[By Sorrayut Suthatsanachinda, Kokhet Chanthaloetlak, and Charoenlak Phetpradap]

[Excerpts] The leader of the military junta yesterday tried to justify continuing martial law with a claim that an "underground movement" was trying to create unrest in the country and making attempts on the coup leaders' lives.

"We will lift martial law only when the underground movement is stoped," said Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, leader of the National Peacekeeping Council which seized power in a bloodless coup last Saturday.

His statement followed a growing chorus of calls by academics and student activists for the junta to lift martial law, imposed immediately after the coup. [passage omitted]

Sunthon said yesterday that he was informed two days ago by "military intelligence" that the movement had "hired some foreigners to create unrest in the country."

Sunthon declined to specify the nationality of the foreigners.

He said the foreigners were hired to make attempts on the lives of the junta's leaders. "They (the alleged underground movement members) are trying to do everything to topple us (the junta)," Sunthon said.

He said the movement would try to discredit the junta by portraying it as incapable of keeping law and order.

The general declined to say who was behind the underground movement but said it had stemmed from "personal conflicts".

Sunthon also declined to say how many foreigners had been hired to terrorize the junta. And, he added, military intelligence did not know the whereabouts of the alleged foreign assailants.

But the junta's secretary-general, Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakhdi, said he had not been informed about the movement. "The supreme commander may have been told ahead of me," Itsraphong said.

Also yesterday, the junta's spokesman, Col Banchon Chawalsip told a press conference that the junta was still detaining deposed prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan to pre-empt possible untoward incidents.

A military source, meanwhile, said the junta decided to go on detaining Chatchai and his policy advisers because it feared that they would flee abroad and set up a government-in-exile if they were released.

The source said the junta feared that it would be in trouble if an exiled administration was set up. Many western countries, including the United States and Britain, have condemned the overthrow of the elected government.

The junta's announcement of its intention to continue martial law came as leaflets were being distributed in Ramkhamhaeng University, denouncing the coup.

The leaflets, purportedly signed by a newly-formed Student Front Against the Coup, called on the junta to release the 15 arrested students, lift martial law and repeal the ban on political gatherings of more than five people. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a well-informed military source told THE NATION that the powerful committee would also investigate private companies which were suspected of having offered bribes to former politicians.

He said many companies, especially those in the construction business, would be summoned for investigation by the committee to see whether they had offered kickbacks to the former ministers in return for big infrastructure projects. [passage omitted]

'Rumors' of Military Leadership 'Division' Noted

BK0203051491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Mar 91 p B1

[By "business reporters"]

[Excerpt] Rumors of a division in the military's top brass which seized power last week, clouded yesterday's stock trading, however the Stock Exchange of Thailand index rose 21 points to close at 790.46 in heavy turnover of about Bt5.1 billion.

It's believed that some top military leaders are wanting an early return of constitutional rights before the six-month time frame set by Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, as they were worried that the interim government's period of administration would be prolonged. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Foreign Relations

BK0203112791 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said that diplomatic relations between Thailand and other countries following the seizure of power by the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] have been proceeding as normal and there is no problem about the council's recognition.

The presence of foreign diplomats designated to Thailand at Monday's meeting to hear the explanation of the reasons for the seizure of power and the direction of the NPKC presented by M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry and acting foreign minister, is regarded as proof of the existence of diplomatic relations between Thailand and the countries of those diplomats. The courtesy call on General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the NPKC, by the Myanmar [Burmese] ambassador to Thailand and the courtesy call on General Suchinda Khraprayun, deputy head of the NPKC, by the PRC ambassador, were merely gestures of congratulations and evidence of a desire for further strengthening relations with Thailand.

Regarding the United States, the Foreign Ministry spokesman disclosed that the Thai ambassador in Washington called on Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state, and members of the House of Representatives and Senate to explain to them the policies of the NPKC.

Army Officer: Press Supports Military Actions

BK0203113391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Colonel Banchon Chawansin, assistant army secretary, told reporters that the Journalists Association of Thailand sent a letter to General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], to voice its agreement with and support for the actions taken by the NPKC and to offer several useful opinions to the NPKC concerning many issues such as the drafting of the constitution and the prevention of corruption and vote-buying. He said the NPKC also welcomes suggestions and advice from the general public.

Regarding the appointment of the new prime minister, Colonel Banchon Chawansin noted that the appointment is likely to be made within a week after the promulgation of the constitution.

Touching on the call for the readjustment of the minimum wage, he said he believed that the issue will be worked out by the new government. He added, however, that many factors must be considered to ensure justice for both employers and workers.

Asked about the report on the 22 former ministers whose names appear on the list of the people whose assets will be frozen, he revealed that the Assets Verification Committee, not the NPKC, decided whose names should be on the list in line with Announcement No. 26, which empowers the committee to investigate the unusual affluence of some people.

Fuel, Gasoline Price Reduction in Effect

BK0203025491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Mar 91 p A1

[Excerpt] A marginal cut in gasoline, fuel oil and LPG retail prices went into effect last night at the order of the National Peacekeeping Council, which cited low crude prices in the world markets as the primary reason for the reduction.

Motorists, taxis and manufacturers will benefit from this move, ranging from Bt [baht] 0.30 to Bt0.35 per litre. However, the transport sector, which uses diesel oil, will not gain.

The new prices of premium and regular gasoline, fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gas are Bt10.70 and Bt10.00/10.20 (octane rating 83/87); Bt3.42-3.95; and Bt10-10.75, respectively.

Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakhdi, secretary-general of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), which took over power from the Chatchai government last week, said further cuts are foreseeable and hailed the first marginal reduction as an important measure to lower the production cost of goods.

The NPKC also announced that the Commerce Ministry will try to reduce the prices of basic daily necessities. Several categories of these goods ae controlled by the ministry.

Officials from the Commerce Ministry, Industry Ministry and National Energy Policy Office were instructed on Thursday to bring down the prices of finished oil products not subsidized by the government.

The junta on Thursday also introduced cuts in personal income tax.

Therefore, diesel and kerosene prices will be unchanged because the government still subsidizes the two products through the Oil Fund, the mechanism which stabilizes retail prices.

The marginal price reduction in other products will reduce the fund inflow to Bt750 million from Bt1 billion a month as the Fund moves to go into the black and record a surplus. [passage omitted]

Burmese Leader Congratulates Gen Sunthon

BK0203055691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Mar 91 p A3

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok and Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Burmese junta leader Gen Saw Maung, who has been critized by international community for his dictatorial rule, yesterday congratulated his Thai counterpart, Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, for his "noble performance... in saving the (political) situation in Thailand."

The message was conveyed through Burmese Ambassador to Thailand U Nyunt Swe who made a courtesy call on Sunthon, leader of last Saturday's coup, at the Supreme Command Headquarters.

Burma yesterday became the second country after China to have extended de facto recognition to the National Peacekeeping Council which seized power on Saturday.

Gen Saw Maung "conveyed his best wishes for the success of Gen Sunthon and (other) members of the National Peacekeeping Council," the envoy told THE NATION.

"He (Saw Maung) recognizes the noble performance of Gen Sunthon in saving the situation of Thailand ... and also congratulated him," on that, he added.

The envoy quoted Sunthon as expressing his appreciation and pledging to work for better ties between the two countries.

The Burmese move came one day after China sent its Ambassador Li Shichun to meet Sunthon. While China has been condemned by the international community for its bloody carackdown on the pro- democracy movements in 1989, Burma is being boycotted by most countries of the world for the bloody coup that swept Saw Maung and his regime to power in 1988.

The Burmese military junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has pledged to restore democracy but refused to hand over power to elected representatives following a general election last May.

Thailand was effectively the first country to break international isolation against Burma when then army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who has close ties with the coup leaders, visited Rangoon in December, 1988.

The Burmese envoy said he was "quite confident that our bilateral relations are improving all the time ever since the governments of (former prime ministers) Prem (Tinsulanon) and Chatchai."

U Nyunt Swe said he also thanked Sunthon for making a one-day visit to Rangoon in February. Sunthon led a 40-member delegation to Burma on Feb 22—one day before he staged the coup against the government of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan.

—The Japanese Embassy yesterday denied Tokyo would suspend talks on new yen loans to Thailand to protest the overthrow of Chatchai government.

An official at the embassy said the Japanese Government had no intention to change its policy toward Thailand, including the economic cooperation.

"We are watching the situation in Bangkok very carefully and at the moment there is no change in our policy toward Bangkok," the official said.

The Japanese official said Tokyo would rather wait for the forming of a provisional government before deciding on its next move.

Meanwhile, Thai Foreign Ministry's spokesman Sakthip Krairiksh said yesterday the Japanese Government will continue its cooperation with Thailand.

He quoted Thai Ambassador to Tokyo M.L. Wirabongsa Kasemsi as saying the suspension of loan talks was proposed by the opposition but that did not mean the government would follow.

The United States, the European Community and New Zealand have strongly deplored the coup here and asked that democracy be quickly restored. The U.S. has also suspended all economic aid to Thailand.

SRV Envoy Views Ties; Do Muoi Visit Still On

BK0203062491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung said yesterday Vietnam "always wishes to develop friendship and cooperation with Thailand."

The invitation for the Thai prime minister to visit Vietnam still stands, he said.

Vietnam enjoyed an unprecedented rapport with Thailand during the administration of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan.

Gen Chatchai forged closer communications with Hanoi and Phnom Penh with his policy to turn the Indochina battlefield into a marketplace.

Describing the bloodless coup that toppled the Chatchai government last Saturday as an "internal affair of Thailand which Vietnam respects," the ambassador said he hoped "relations between the two countries would continously develop for our mutual interests."

He also welcomed Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's statement that there would be no change in Thai policy on the Cambodian problem and that Thailand hoped for an early settlement of the conflict.

Before the coup then foreign minister Athit Urairat planned to visit Vietnam during the first week of this month to lay the groundwork for a planned summit between Gen Chatchai and Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi.

However, preparations for the summit meeting were not completed. These included the finalisation of draft agreements for investment protection, the setting up of a joint economic commission, and cooperation in oil exploration.

At present, Vietnam is also tied up with the task of preparing for the crucial party congress which the ambassador said is tentatively slated for late June.

'Thousands of Vietnamese Refugees' Revolt

BK0403130891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Bangkok, March 4 (AFP)—Thousands of Vietnamese refugees in a Thai camp southwest of here revolted Monday over plans to transfer them to another settlement, refugee workers said.

The refugee workers said the revolt broke out at the Phanat Nikhom camp, 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of here, after a group of Vietnamese refused to be moved to Sikiu, a camp just opened for refugees not eligible for resettlement in the west.

Vietnam

Nguyen Co Thach Requests Cambodian Cease-Fire

BK0203100691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Hanoi, March 2 (AFP)—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has asked France and Indonesia to help arrange a cease-fire and a moratorium on arms deliveries in Cambodia, a diplomatic source said here Saturday.

Meanwhile, the official NHAN DAN daily said Saturday that the militarily powerful Khmer Rouge had used the veil of the Gulf war to step up its military activities against the Phnom Penh government.

Mr. Thach, in a letter to his French and Indonesian counterparts, Roland Dumas and Ali Alatas, whose countries co-chair the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), asked them to call for a cease-fire in Cambodia, the diplomat said.

The Vietnamese minister also asked that France and Indonesia help halt military aid from all foreign sources to the four warring Cambodian factions, the diplomat added.

Vietnamese officials said they feared that the Thai military junta that seized power in Bangkok a week ago would adopt a more active policy of support for the resistance.

Mr. Thach had said Thursday that Vietnam was ready along with Thailand and Laos to commit to halting transport of arms to Cambodia from other countries via its territory.

Thailand has allowed transshipments of arms, mostly Chinese, through its territory to the Cambodian resistance, while Vietnam and the Soviet Union are the main supporters of the Phnom Penh government.

In addition to the Khmer Rouge, supporters of former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and those of former Prime Minister Son Sann are fighting to oust the Phnom Penh government, set up in Cambodia after Vietnam invaded in late 1978. [passage omitted]

An Asian diplomat described the Vietnamese request as "completely out of line because it is outside the overall context of a settlement of the problem put forward by the big five," referring to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

He said a cease-fire and a halt to arms deliveries to all the Cambodian factions could come about only under the U.N. plan.

"When the big five proposed the plan, they of course included a cease-fire and the end of arms deliveries, which would be done under the control of the United Nations," he said.

Suspension of Arms to Cambodian Sides Urged

BK0203121391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 2 Mar 91

[NHAN DAN commentary by Duy Thinh: "The Urgent Measure Is To Suspend Military Aid to Various Cambodian Sides"]

[Text] While there is much potential for reaching an overall political solution to the Cambodian problem on the basis of respecting Cambodia's sovereignty, there are also indications that the danger of a civil war is intensifying in Cambodia.

Taking advantage of a time when the public's attention is focused on the Gulf war, the three Khmer opposition factions, mainly the Khmer Rouge, have intensified their military activities to attack populous areas in the northern border area of Cambodia and the refugees' transit camp near Sisophon Town, sowing death and sorrow on civilians.

Many reports say that foreign countries have continually given military aid and increased arms supplies to the Khmer opposition force, which is likely to fan the flame of civil war that might burst out fiercely. Such acts are like adding fuel to a fire, undermining all efforts aimed at bringing about peace in Cambodia.

The settlement of the Cambodian problem is entering a decisive stage. All countries and sides involved have agreed on most problems in regard to the international aspect. The main outstanding problems on the path to a final solution—mainly those concerning internal affairs and Cambodia's sovereignty—must essentially be discussed and agreed upon by the various Cambodian sides. As a result, the current pressing demand is that the Cambodian sides must restrain themselves, pledge a cease-fire, and resume the meeting of the Supreme National Council to discuss and settle the internal problems of Cambodia's sovereignty as proposed by the State of Cambodia, and, only the Cambodian people have the right and capability to solve these problems.

The practical and urgent measure that must be made now is that all countries should pledge to follow the initiatives of the United States and the Soviet Union to temporarily suspend military aid to the various Cambodian sides and terminate all intervention in Cambodia.

Commentary Urges Settlement of Cambodia Issue

BK0203135391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "The Process of Peacefully Settling the Cambodian Issue Should Be Accelerated"]

[Text] Our unswerving stand toward fraternal Cambodia has been to relentlessly struggle for an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue to promptly obtain a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia coexisting in friendship with all countries.

It was mainly for this reason that we unilaterally withdrew all the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia in September 1989, one year earlier than estimated. This fact has been welcomed and highly appraised by the international community, which considered it a great contribution imbued with goodwill and a high sense of responsibility.

The settlement of the Cambodian issue is now at a decisive stage. All countries and Cambodian sides involved have agreed on most problems regarding the international aspect. There is much potential for reaching an overall political solution based on respect for Cambodia's sovereignty, even though some problems of Cambodia's internal affairs have not been agreed upon unanimously.

At present, due attention should also be paid to another problem in Cambodia, namely, that a civil war might occur and become increasingly fierce. That is likely to occur.

Taking advantage of a time when the international public is focused on the Gulf situation, the armed forces of the three Cambodian factions, mainly the Khmer Rouge, have intensified their attacks in the northwestern border area of Cambodia, mainly on the populous areas and even the refugees' transit camp, sowing death and destruction on the local people and seriously undermining the process of peacefully settling the Cambodian problem.

The cruel acts of these Khmer factions are supported by some outside forces. Some countries continue to ship various types of war materiel to the notoriously cruel genocidal clique which has been condemned by progressive mankind, and this has enabled the clique to intensify its new crimes. Such an operation is very dangerous. They are pouring oil onto the fire and fanning the flames of a civil war that should not happen. Also, through such an operation, they are undermining the common effort to accelerate the process for a fair and reasonable comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue.

At present, the pressing demand concerning the Cambodian issue is that the warring sides in this country must restrain themselves, reach a cease-fire and resume the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] already established to solve those issues concerning their sovereignty and internal affairs which no outside persons or countries can do for them.

As for the international community, more urgently than ever before, it should immediately adopt practical and effective measures to prevent the civil war that is likely to escalate in Cambodia and create favorable conditions for the SNC to meet again in order to settle its internal problems in the spirit of national concord.

Also more pressing than ever before, countries should emulate the Soviet and U.S. initiatives on 23 September 1989 to suspend military aid to the Cambodian factions. If this can be done, it is mainly aimed at contributing effectively to the settlement of the Cambodian problem in the spirit of nonintervention in Cambodia's internal affairs and for the sake of a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia that lives in friendship with all countries; and at building Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation.

Our attitude once again was clearly pointed out in the 28 February statement of the SRV Foreign Ministry which, together with Thailand and Laos, pledged not to let other countries ship arms to Cambodia through our territories. The implementation of this pledge will be placed under UN control. We also ask the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN secretary general to do their utmost to help terminate military aid to various Cambodian sides and to reach a cease-fire in Cambodia until an overall agreement can be signed. Only in this way can outside countries practically contribute to limiting and then ending the civil war in Cambodia, and vigorously accelerating the process of seeking an overall political solution to the Cambodian problem.

NHAN DAN Comments on Gulf War End

BK0103135291 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] NHAN DAN, newspaper of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on Friday expressed the wish for an early and true ending of the Gulf war, and quick settlement of the remaining problems, to bring about a long-awaited and steady peace to that part of the world.

Commenting on U.S. President George Bush's announcement on the cessation of ground combat operations, NHAN DAN said: To end the Gulf war is an urgent public demand. Following Iraq's declaration that it withdraw from Kuwait and the liberation of Kuwait and Iraq's agreement to comply with the UN Security Resolution, there were evidently no longer any reason for continuing the war.

The suspension of the offensive combat operations by the United States and coalition conforms to the aspiration of world public opinion. All nations urge for an early restoration of peace to that region. Suspension of hostilities should become a mutually agreed cease-fire, a permanent one. This requires effort and goodwill from both sides.

There remains threat to the consolidation of cease-fire. President Bush said that this war is now behind. This will be a good thing to realize this. The statements made by a number of senior U.S. Government officials on the war goals have given rise to public concern. For the sake of permanent cease-fire in advance to genuine peace in the Persian Gulf, warring parties as well as the international community should continue to work and behave on the basis of good conscience and reason.

The Gulf war has reviewed the seriousness of the deep and complicated contradictions in that vital region. The end to this war is a common desire. However, its end does not mean the termination of its character. Contradictions remain and some even become more acute. The Gulf problem can only be settled when all these contradictions are solved. The present situation shed light on the urgency of a solution to the remaining problems. In this undertaking, the important role first of all belongs to the regional countries with the appropriate contributions from countries outside the region prompted by goodwill.

Council of State Communique on 1-2 Mar Session

BK0303160791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 3 Feb 91

["Communique of the Council of State"]

[Text] The Council of State on 1-2 March met under the chairmanship of Chairman Vo Chi Cong:

1. After hearing reports by the drafting committees of the Council of Ministers on the readjustment of the drafts of the law on forests, the law on popularization of level-I education, and the law on protection and education of children on the basis of the views contributed by National Assembly deputies and by standing members of the science and technology committee, the culture and education committee, the committee for youths and teenagers and children, and the judiciary committee of the National Assembly, the Council of State expounded its views and assigned these drafting committees to continue readjusting these draft laws together with relevant committees of the National Assembly. This is aimed at soliciting views from various echelons, sectors, and mass organizations before submitting them to the National Assembly for approval at its session in the middle of this year.

2. The Council of State heard representatives of the Council of Ministers report on the measures to stabilize the price of grain and solve the problem concerning food shortages during the preharvest lean period, as well as to eliminate difficulties encountered by workers, civil servants, members of the armed forces, and those entitled to social welfare policies in their daily life. The Council of State also heard the views expressed by the public health and social welfare committee and economic, planning, and budget committee of the National Assembly.

The Council of State reminded the Council of Ministers that solving the problem of food shortages for the people in some localities that experienced crop failures due to natural calamities or adverse weather conditions is an urgent task in the immediate future.

All echelons, sectors, and grass-roots units must ensure that state assistance is given promptly to the right recipients, while coordinating with various mass and social organizations in encouraging the people to help each other in the spirit of mutual assistance. Efforts must be made to continue the assistance plans for workers, civil servants, members of the armed forces, and those entitled to social welfare policies.

It is necessary to ensure, by all available means, that peasants are supplied with fertilizer, insecticide, and other materials to step up the spring-summer crop production. It is also necessary to provide guidance and create all favorable conditions for the grain sector to truly engage in business activities, satisfactorily regulate grain supply among various localities, and reduce losses through several intermediary links, thereby stabilizing the prices of grain throughout the country.

3. The Council of State heard a report on the success of the official friendship visit to the Republic of Indonesia, from 25 to 31 January, by the delegation of our National Assembly led by its Chairman Le Quang Dao. The Council of State warmly hailed and highly valued the fine success of the visit, considering this as a new step of development in the relations of friendship and cooperation between the National Assemblies and peoples of Vietnam and Indonesia.

4. The Council of State decided to confer the Ho Chi Minh Order on a number of veteran revolutionary cadres for their outstanding contributions to the revolutionary cause of the nation.

5. The Council of State passed a number of stipulations concerning its operational procedures and work relations in order to increase its operational efficiency.

Leading Intellectual Speaks Out for Change

AU0303142091 Paris AFP in English 0640 GMT 3 Mar 91

[By Michel Blanchard]

[Text] Paris, March 3 (AFP) — Vietnamese writer and editor Nguyen Khac Vien, an elderly intellectual long associated with the Hanoi regime, has called for the resignation of most of his country's communist leaders and the introduction of broad democratic freedoms.

Mr. Vien, 78, the former director of Hanoi's Foreign Language Publishing House, and now in retirement in Ho Chi Minh City, last month addressed a petition to the communist authorities urging a profound shake-up of Vietnam's leadership and leadership structures.

A copy of the petition, received recently here, said Vietnam needed "freedom of the press and of thought and freedom of association." Mr. Vien also said that Vietnamese should be given freedom to demonstrate, strike and organize elections.

The petition, submitted on January 6, comes at a time when the Vietnamese Communist Party, in deep crisis, has been forced to delay by at least one month its 7th Congress, now due to be held in May.

The delay was called because splits in the party have prevented it from agreeing on a program.

Mr. Vien, however, said that more than a program the party needed new leaders.

The leadership is "totally impotent," he charged in the petition, "plunging the country into disorder and preventing all development."

He also criticized the power of the party which had become inseparable from that of the state. Party committees "held all powers" and state institutions such as the cabinet, the national assembly, and the ministries merely executed the party's orders.

The French-educated Mr. Vien said two measures were needed to prevent what he called the "degeneration" of the party.

First, all bodies of the Central Committee and the party which paralleled state functions would have to be dissolved. Second, those "comrades currently heading Central Committee commissions" would have to resign, "making room for new people."

However, he did not call for the creation of a multiparty system. That idea is still taboo in Hanoi, where communist conservatives have in the past year been been able to reassert their power and influence.

The Politburo, and the Party Secretariat, "do not understand that many comrades are too old, physically inept, and incapable of following the changing times," he wrote.

Mr. Vien is the third prominent Vietnamese to contest publicly the leadership of the Communist Party.

The Vietnamese party, unlike those of Eastern Europe or even the Soviet Union, for long enjoyed a measure of prestige and popular support within the country for its role in defeating France and the United States in two lengthy colonial wars.

Earlier, Bui Tin, deputy editor-in-chief of the official daily NHAN DAN, issued a petition also highly critical of the current leadership, and writer Duong Thu Huong has also come out publicly in favor of change.

Mr. Vien, in his petition, called for the creation of a new "people's democratic front" for which the Communist Party —provided it agreed to reform itself — might constitute the "framework."

Bandits, Police Turn Province Into 'Wild West'

BK0303024991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0220 GMT 3 Mar 91

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Hanoi, March 3 (AFP)—A police shoot-on-sight policy against gangsters who use anti-tank rockets in their raids has turned Vietnam's Lang Son Province into a latter-day wild west frontier.

The virtual breakdown of law and order in the province bordering China is the result of massive cross-border smuggling operations that have sprung up recently, according to the Army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN.

Thousands of criminals, eager for a slice of the action, have flocked to the province from all over Vietnam, prompting a multiple increase in the number of muggings and armed attacks, the daily said recently.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 people, mostly youths working the smuggling routes as couriers, have graduated to the more lucrative business of highway robbery, attacking the thousands of vehicles that load and unload their illegal cargoes 24 hours a day.

"As well as pistols and grenades, these bandits are using explosives and B-40 anti-tank weapons," the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN said.

A factor the newspaper omitted, but one cited by official sources here, was that many of the "bandits" could well be weapons experts who were demobilized as part of Vietnam's policy to cut back its armed forces.

One victim of the military reduction was Vietnam's northern army, which fought back a Chinese offensive in the region in 1979 that aimed to punish Vietnam for its invasion of Cambodia in December 1978.

The weaponry used by the gansters is probably provided by soldiers who raid arms depots and openly sell their hauls in local markets, as witnessed by a reporter in the small border village of Dong Dang.

According to police in the province, the bandits are hardened criminals who have developed a profitable living in the mountainous and forested region, where the proximity of the Chinese border provides a useful escape from police patrols.

"The police are cooperating with frontier guards and the Chinese police, whom they have provided with with name lists and photographs of the delinquents operating in this country," the Army daily said.

Law enforcement personnel in the region face serious danger in their battle against the heavily armed bandits.

ccording to the newspaper, around 10 local policemen ave been killed or injured in recent incidents.

he Vietnamese authorities have given strong backing to olice operations, with a new shoot-on-sight policy being ntroduced to eliminate the more notorious criminal lements, whose faces figure prominently on wanted osters hung in towns and villages throughout the province.

lowever, the campaign so far has only met with mediocre results, leading QUAN DOI NHAN DAN to call for "relentless struggle" against criminal activity in the egion, which it euphemistically described as "posing omplex problems of social security.

guyen Van Linh's Speech to Security Conference

K0203153391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network n Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Feb 91

"Text" of speech by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary f the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, t a 27 February conference held by the Ministry of nterior to review the 1990 movement for maintaining ational security—read by announcer]

Text] Dear comrades: Today on the occasion of the eginning of the year of the goat, springtime, I am very leased to meet you, the leading comrades of various rgans under the Ministry of Interior and of the public ecurity forces from various cities, and representatives of he administration and mass organizations from various recincts, districts, and villages nationwide who, credited with outstanding achievements in the 1990 emulation movement for maintaining national security, are ere in Hanoi to attend this conference held by the ninistry.

he fact that the Ministry of Interior has annually eviewed from the infrastructure up the results of the uilding of the movement for maintaining national ecurity is a laudatory work, for it is a practical implementation of the party Central Committee's eighth lenum resolution on intensifying mass motivation work nd maintaining public security and order. On this ccasion, I would like to share my opinions as follows:

ver the years, the public security forces have made nuch effort and have scored encouraging achievements. hey include:

irst, fully aware of the resolution of the Sixth Party ongress, the public security forces have made some enovations in their policies and measures in conformity vith requirements for renovating the country in its ocioeconomic construction, in developing democracy, nd in broadening external relations. Also, initial successes have been scored with wide recognition from arious sectors, mass organizations, and people.

econd, the public security forces have tried to correct heir shortcomings, rightism, and negligence and have joined with other internal security branches in effectively implementing Directive No. 135 and other policies of the Council of Ministers on fighting economic crimes as well as the many resolutions of the party Central Committee and the Political Bureau on intensifying the maintenance of security and order to serve the urgent task of stabilizing the economy. The public security forces have launched crackdowns on political, economic, and antisocial criminals; contained the criminal situation; and cooperated with various sectors and mass organizations in providing increased guidance for the people to gradually reestablish their social order and discipline and contribute to consolidating the legislative system and the administration's effectivenss. On the recent year of the goat Tet, you, comrades, did a good job in maintaining security so the people could enjoy a happy and wholesome Tet.

Third, with the policy of regarding the people as the root, the task of maintaining security and order should be one of the entire people, for the people, and by the people. The public security forces have strived to stay close to the people, promote the people's right to mastery, and rekindle various popular movements for crime prevention and suppression such as the movement for reeducating law offenders and reorganizing population areas, the reconciliatory movement, and the movement for motivating offenders at large to surrender. All these have received wide response from the people of all strata and have therefore produced good results.

Fourth, the public security forces did a good job in achieving the goal set by the Sixth Party Congress by successfully building a social security and order movement among various wards and villages such as those in the cities of Hanoi, Haiphong, and Ho Chi Minh City; and Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Son Binh, Nghe Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Binh Dinh, Thuan Hai, Cuu Long, Ben Tre, An Giang, Kieng Giang Provinces; and in other places. From what I know, at this conference there are 35 reports on models in the popular movement for maintaining national security, public order, and safety and for influencing and educating criminals. All of these are new, widely recognized achievements in the 1990 popular movement for maintaining national security and also a valuable reward for all of you. Your achievements have contributed to firmly maintaining national security and public order and creating a favorable environment for the renovation undertaking.

The mass movement for defending national security has helped accelerate the people's movement for revolutionary acts and consolidate the close relationship between the party and the people. On behalf of the party Central Committee, I warmly cite the spirit and effort of the people's public security force, the defensive forces of the masses at the grassroots level, the village police, the popular and self-defense guards, and the security and order councils of various city wards, villages, and hamlets who have day and night struggled to allow the people to live and work in peace.

However, the mass movement for defending national security is still neither widespread nor profound and has not brought into full play the people's latent potential. Some components of the police are still neither wholesome nor steady and have not been able to win the people's confidence and love. I hope that this year, we will struggle harder to most satisfactorily overcome these shortcomings and weaknesses.

Dear comrades, in the days ahead your duties are still very heavy and difficult. The enemy and reactionaries will continue to sabotage us in several aspects in order to carry out their plot of peaceful evolution, overthrow our regime, and wipe out socialism. The economic criminals are still taking advantage of loopholes and shortcomings in our socioeconomic management to cause losses of assets to our state and people. They have hindered our effort to build the economy and stabilize social life.

In the defense of security and order, Uncle Ho told us to rely on the people and not to distance ourselves from them. Otherwise, we will fail. Millions of our people have tens of millions of ears, eyes, and hands. If we know how to rely on the people, we can achieve any task. The more the people who help us, the more successes we will secure; the less they help us, the less success we will achieve. If the people give us their total support, our victory will be complete. This was Uncle Ho's address to the mid-level police cadre training course in Viet Bac in 1951. This teaching of Uncle Ho to the people's public security force 40 years ago is all the more meaningful now than ever before.

I hope that the people's public security force and all those brothers and sisters charged with defense tasks at the grassroots level, will most satisfactorily implement our Uncle's teaching in motivating the people to participate in the maintenance of security and order. To do this, first, you should stay close to the people, forge your revolutionary ethics and qualities, and by your practical and concrete deeds attentively care for our compatriots' interests in terms of food, lodging, movement, education, and medical treatment. On this basis, you will launch the movement for defending national security.

Second, you should conduct propaganda to guide the people in upholding their vigilance and help them exercise their right to mastery over the defense of their villages and communes, and participate in patrolling and assuring safety in city wards, villages, and hamlets, and in defending national sovereignty. Old people and members of various associations and mass organizations should help educate their children on ethics and good lifestyle, educate and convert wrongdoers, pay attention to retarded teenagers and youths, call on wrongdoers at large to give themselves up, and mobilize all the people to prevent and struggle against crimes.

Third, cadres of village police, popular and self-defense guards, security and order councils, and so forth who perform the task of maintaining security and order must be truly exemplary, respect the people's right to mastery, not abuse their authority to coerce the people, and listen to the people's suggestions about security and order tasks. If we can do all these tasks well, we will certainly be able to frustrate all sabotage plots by the enemy and criminals, maintain peace in the country, and improve security and order.

Once again, on behalf of the party Central Committee, I cordially wish you, comrades, good health and that you score better successes in the new year than those of last year in the new struggle spirit. Also through you, I would like to convey the party Central Committee's regards to all members of the people's public security force, the defense force at the grassroots level, and the people of all nationalities and all religions who have helped the public security force fulfill its task well and assure security and order throughout last year.

May the conference be a success!

All-Army Economic Conference To Review Tasks

BK0103134391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] An all-army economic conference was held in Hanoi during 25-26 February. Attending the conference were directors of general departments and commanders of armed branches and services, military regions, and military economic establishments in northern provinces, and representatives of party and state agencies concerned.

Also attending the conference were Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, deputy minister of national defense and Vu Quang, deputy head of the party economic and planning department.

Lieutenant General Phan Thau, head of the military general economic and industrial department, delivered a report. He said: Despite numerous difficulties during the past year, the army's economic and industrial activities scored remarkable progress as compared with 1989. Those units that applied the economic accounting system have gained profits amounting to 24 billion dong and procured for the state more than 19 billion dong, an increase of 10-20 percent as compared to that of last year. Production and exploitation of coal were carried out effectively with high economic results. Thanks to efforts in reorganizing the production and exploitation of coal in Quang Ninh Province, the situation has returned to normal and units have satisfactorily engaged in production. This has contributed positively to strengthening the national defense industries, increasing state and military budget, promoting social welfare policy, and creating favorable conditions for implementing the army's economic tasks.

Vietnamese Friendship Delegation Visits Laos

BK0203120691 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—A delegation of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organiztions headed by Nong Duc Manh, vice-president of the union and president of the Vietnam-Laos from February 21-28. [sentence as received]

During this visit, the delegation had working sessions with a delegation of the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship With Other Nations led by Vice-President Souvannalat Sai-gnavong and a delegation of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association led by Vice-President Bouasi Lovansai.

The delegation was received on Feb. 27 by Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate member of the Political Bureau, and chairman of the Commission for Organisation, of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. It visited a number of economic, social, and cultural establishments in Vientiane and the province of Luang Prabang.

First Deputy Premier on Recent Malaysia Visit

BK0203152491 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—I was deeply impressed by Malaysia's economic development, said Vo Van Kiet, first vice-chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, in a recent interview by VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY on the results of his visit to Malaysia early last month as guest of the Malaysia government.

The visit, he said, was aimed at promoting mutual understanding and economic cooperation, and exchanging experiences in the macro-economic management.

The vice-chairman said that his strongest impression was Malaysia's timely re-adjustment of its economic development strategy from a strategy of industrialization aimed at replacing imports to an export-oriented strategy aimed at attracting capital, technology and managerial skills from abroad, linking the regional market with the international market, and, at present, opening outward on the basis of a strong domestic industry so as to achieve comprehensive development.

Asked about the feelings of the Malaysian leaders and people towards Vietnam, Vo Van Kiet said:

'Through my contacts with Malaysian leaders as well as my working visits to various offices, research institutes and production establishments in Malaysia, my companions and I saw the expression of friendship, sincerity and hospitality towards Vietnam on the part of Malaysian leaders who all wished for Vietnam's success in renovation so as to become a prosperous country.'

He said that some time in March this year, Vietnamese and Malaysian specialists will meet to discuss and draft documents on goods exchange and other bilateral cooperation investment programmes to be considered by the governments of the two countries, and that a joint Vietnam-Malaysia commission will be set up afterwards to coordinate the cooperation plans.

Vietnam has accepted an invitation of the Malaysian minister of industry and trade to take part in the Kuala Lumpur fair to be held in October, Vo Van Kiet said.

Nguyen Van Linh Receives German Delegation

BK0103154491 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 1—CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh received here this afternoon the visiting delegation of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SED) headed by Dr. Herta Daubler Gmelin, Deputy Chairwoman of the Party and Deputy Chairwoman of the Social Democratic Group in the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The party leader welcomed the SED delegation's Vietnam visit as a contribution to further enhancing the friendship between the two parties in the interests of the two peoples and of peace, friendship and cooperation among nations.

In reply, Dr. Herta Daubler Gmelin expressed sincere thanks to the CPV leader for his warm reception.

While here, the SED delegation has been received by Nguyen Co Thach, Politburo member of the CPV Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister; and Le Quang Dao, member of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly.

Leaders Greet Gorbachev's 60th Birthday

BK0103154091 Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 1st—Vietnamese party and state leaders today extended their greetings to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and president of the Soviet Union, on his 60th birthday.

The message jointly signed by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council, says:

"We wish you good health so as together with the Communist Party, the state and people of the Soviet Union successfully carry out the restructuration initiated by the CPSU. [sentence as received]

"We wish that the fraternal Soviet Communists and people would rapidly overcome the present difficulties, successfully implementing the resolution of the 28th

CPSU Congress, consolidating and developing the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, thus contributing to the cause of peace and security the world over.

"The Vietnamese Communist Party, state, and people have now as before persisted in its external policy of solidarity, friendship and development of all-sided cooperation with the Communist Party, the state and the fraternal people of the Soviet Union".

Greets Mongolian Party on 70th Anniversary

BK0103145591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee's message to Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee on its 70th founding anniversary—date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], on behalf of the Vietnamese Communists and people, we would like to convey to you comrades and all members of the MPRP, our warmest greetings. We wish the MPRP all successes in bringing its historic, glorious traditions into full play and in triumphantly implementing resolutions of the 20th MPRP congress.

We wish the Mongolian people many ever greater achievements in building and developing their country, in consolidating national independence, and strengthening social progress along the socialist path for the prosperity and happiness of the Mongolian people and for peace, friendship, and cooperation among nations.

We wish the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two parties and peoples of Vietnam and Mongolia to be further consolidated and developed for the interests of the two peoples and for peace and socialism.

State Official Interviewed on Foreign Investment

BK0103110591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Feb 91

[PHU NU VIET NAM [Vietnam Women] journal correspondent's interview with Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment; "on the occasion of the Lunar New Year"; place not given; read by announcer]

[Summary] Answering a question about the main foreign investment areas in Vietnam over the past three years and the common problems facing foreign investors in Vietnam, Comrade Dau Ngoc Xuan said: "Over the past three years, foreign investors have focused their investment projects mainly on oil exploration and exploitation, consumer products manufacture, hotel building, tourism, fisheries, aquatic products processing, and forest products exploitation and processing."

Regarding investment conditions, he said that generally speaking, the investment conditions in Vietnam are regarded as favorable for foreign investors. However, there is still much room for improvement because there remain many problems in the domains of "support services, banking operations, infrastructure, entry and exit visa application, and travel arrangements."

Analyzing the causes leading to a delay in the implementation of a number of investment projects already approved by the Vietnamese side, the minister cited price fluctuations on the world market, foreign investors' failure to stick to their original plans, and lack of knowledge and experiences on the part of Vietnamese cadres in charge of foreign investment.

He added that to overcome these drawbacks, "it is necessary to thoroughly study investment areas, improve the quality of project formulation and evaluation, accelerate personnel training, and step up inspection work in order to promptly and effectively ameliorate the situation."

He disclosed that to facilitate foreign investment in Vietnam, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the ministries concerned have promulgated 50 sub-laws governing financial services, banking operations, import-export activities, customs, and personnel recruitment. Moreover, a number of laws on oil exploration and exploitation, airline services, and bankruptcy will be promulgated in the time to come.

Asked to comment on the very backwardness of Vietnam's communication networks and infrastructures, he agreed that there is still much room for improvement in these fields but added that the state has formulated plans to mobilize capital from national and international sources to overcome these shortcomings. In addition, Vietnam stands ready to let foreign companies handle these building projects and will apply a preferential tax system to foreign investors specializing in the building of infrastructures.

Asked if the government has done anything to help women benefit from foreign investment in Vietnam, he disclosed that the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment had granted licenses to various projects involving the production of ready-made clothes, shoes, fine arts products, animated cartoons, and instant noodles because these foreign-funded production facilities employ a considerable number of women employees.

Australia

Agricultural Trade Mission To Be Sent to U.S.

BK0203131791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Canberra, March 2 (AFP)—Australia is sending a trade mission to the United States to try to "moderate the damage" caused to Australian agriculture by the U.S. Export Enhancement Program (EEP), Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Saturday.

The mission, to be led by Trade and Overseas Development Minister Neal Blewett, will include representatives of the opposition as well as government, reflecting the anxiety now being felt here.

Mr. Hawke said in a statement the five-member mission will lobby the U.S. Congress and administration to "at the very least" moderate the damage being suffered by Australian farmers.

A bipartisan mission was a strategy suggested by deputy opposition leader Tim Fischer in response to the escalating trade subsidies war between the United States and the European Community (EC).

As the U.S. Congress is likely to consider the 1991 EEP within a week or so, the mission will visit the United States next week, the premier said. A similar delegation would be sent to the EC, "the principal offender in corrupting international agricultural trade" later this year, Mr. Hawke said.

Canberra is also concerned about the inroads being made by subsidised American wheat into traditional Australian markets in the Middle East and fears now the Gulf war is over that Iraq could be targeted next.

Mr. Hawke told a news conference this week Australia would fight to defend its Middle Eastern markets against subsidised American and European wheat. Financially, Australian wheatgrowers have been the biggest Australian losers in the war with Iraq, one of Australia's best clients.

Australian Wheat Board Chairman Clinton Condon warned this week Australia could lose part of its share of the Middle East wheat trade to the United States following the Gulf war.

Australian fears increased after Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Julius Katz refused this week to rule out flooding the Middle East with subsidised U.S. wheat after the war.

Senator Denies PNG Assassination Proposal

BK0403064091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] A recent report published by an Australian newspaper alleging that Papua New Guinea's deputy prime minister, Mr. Ted Diro, had proposed the assassination of rebel leaders on Bougainville island has been denied by an Australian parliamentarian. The parliamentarian, Senator Chris Schacht, has just returned from a week long fact-finding visit to PNG where he had led an Australian parliamentary committee.

A Radio Australia correspondent in Canberra, Richard Andrews, reports:

[Begin recording] [Andrews] A SYDNEY MORNING HERALD report claimed Mr. Diro told the committee his preferred solution to Bougainville was to assassinate the rebel leaders, start a civil war, and in the ensuing chaos, take back the island.

However, Senator Schacht says the PNG Government is committed to the Honiara Peace Accord, and although the treaty has problems, he was astonished by the report.

[Schacht] We have just had some very frank discussions with a whole range of ministers, and we were very thankful of their willingness to be open and frank to us [words indistinct] conversations. And so I am not in any position to repeat them other than to say that the report in the press talking about assassinations squads and so on, was totally erroneous. [end recording]

Fiji

Riot Police Sent To Quell Miners' Strike

BK0403041291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0350 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Suva, March 4 (AFP)—Riot police have gone to Vatukoula, on the west coast of Fiji, where 600 gold miners are on strike against what they say is the racial discrimination of their bosses, it was announced Monday.

The official police spokesman, Assistant Superintendant Romanu Tikotikoca, said the squad was "closely monitoring the situation to ensure there was no breakdown of law and order."

Two executives of the Fiji Mineworkers Union (FUM) were arrested for questioning at the weekend after the Australian Emperor Gold Mining Company alleged that they had prevented workers entering the mine shaft and mill areas.

FUM Secretary Kavekini Navuso, who is leading the strikers, warned in Vatukoula on Sunday that the situation "could become explosive if the police try to take sides in the strike." The Fiji Trades Union Congress, the umbrella trade union movement, said the dispute could "escalate" if police harrassed the strikers. "The men were talking to workers who are members of the union and there's nothing unlawful about that," FTUC President Michael Columbus said after visiting the miners at the weekend. "It is a legitimate right of the strikers, even under the new constitution."

The military-backed government promulgated a new constitution for Fiji in July which guarantees political power to indigenous Fijians. Both Fijian and ethnic Indian gold miners in Vatukoula have joined the strike in a rare show of communal unity.

Mr. Columbus accused Emperor of intimidating and threatening workers, but resident manager Andrew Cullum retorted in a statement Monday that the strikers were abusing other workers. "The mineworkers' union had failed to gain recognition by legal means and was now seeking it through coercion. The pickets are illegal and operating on priavte property," he said. Mr. Cullum said milling of gold was continuing on a small scale as the company had stockpiled ore for several days.

Mr. Navuso said that the strike is "indefinite until they meet our demands", but the company said strikers would lose their jobs and the management would look at other measures of cutting costs if the strike continued.

Gold, mined in Fiji by Emperor since 1935, earns the country 42 million U.S. dollars in foreign exchange yearly. Emperor employs around 1,300, of whom 1,147 are miners.

Further on Miners' Strike

BK0303065291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0609 GMT 3 Mar 91

[By Davendra Sharma]

[Text] Vatukoula, Fiji, March 3 (AFP)—More than 600 striking Fijian goldminers warned Sunday they are digging in for a prolonged and bitter battle to defeat what they see as racial discrimination and exploitation by their Australian "colonial" masters.

The strike, in its fifth day Sunday, has crippled production at four mines run by Australia's Emperor Gold Mining Company in this west coast community. About 100 European or part-European workers, reputed to enjoy better wages and conditions, were still working to maintain what the company describes as essential services. Another 500 workers, though not on strike, appear not to be crossing picket lines manned at each of the four mineshafts by about 100 members of the Fiji Mineworkers Union (FMU).

The strike, which involves workers of ethnic Fijian and Indian descent, has united the usually fragmented Fijian and Indian communities in Vatukoula. The union accuses Emperor of unfair labour practices, exploitation, lack of controls on pollution in the mines and failing to supply protective kits to miners using dynamite. The miners say the company's policy of giving its European and part-European workers better wages, conditions and housing than the local workers is racial discrimination.

About 400 strikers were dismissed Friday for failing to report for work and breaching a company rule not to be absent for more than three shifts without official leave. The dismissals followed a warning by the company's resident manager Andrew Cullum that they would lose their jobs if the strike continued longer. Mr. Cullum said the strike "could create a situation in which Emperor would have to consider further moves to cut costs to ensure the Fiji gold industry remained viable."

FUM secretary Kavekini Navuso said in an interview Sunday the miners were driven to strike because of frustration at an apparent lack of response to their demands. They were so angry they could resort to violence if the company did not listen. "I don't rule out that possibility. Our miners feel enough is enough," he said. He said inflation had eroded the value of wages because the workers had received no real pay increase since 1984.

"Some of the houses the miners live in today were built by the American Air Force in 1939," said Mr Navuso. "The company has refused to do any repairs and only recently they repainted." Twelve families were sharing bathroom and toilet facilities in a building he described as a barracks. "This strike will go on indefinitely or until they meet our demands. "The miners have suffered these problems for a long time and we would rather have some sacrifices now to win better conditions for the future." He accused police of harrassing workers by visiting the site and ordering workers to vacate it.

In a weekend statement the Fiji Trades Union Congress warned that any show of force against the workers could lead to an explosive situation. It said the union had been battling for recognition for months but had been ignored by Emperor and the government. "The company has regarded Vatukoula as its own empire keeping workers under constant threats. The workers have had enough. They will no longer be deterred by threats of dismissal," the statement said. "They will no longer put up with the type of apartheid being practised by a foreign company which is colonial in character."

Ratu Meli Malani, Emperor's only local director, said in a statement that the firm acknowledged problems with "some of the housing." But it had made many improvements and introduced a scheme to encourage home ownership on a new housing estate. Mr. Navuso said new houses were only affordable by higher paid expatriate Europeans and not by local workers, some of whom were paid only 25 Fijian dollars (18 dollars U.S.) a week.

New Zealand

French Premier's Visit Rescheduled to Midyear

BK0403033191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0306 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Wellington, March 4 (AFP)—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard is likely to visit New Zealand during the middle of this year, New Zealand Foreign Minister Don Mckinnon said Monday.

Mr. Rocard was to have visited in January but postponed the trip because of the Gulf conflict. Mr.

Mckinnon said Mr. Rocard was keen to bury bad feelings left in the wake of the 1985 bombing by French agents of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour. "We consider it a very important meeting because there has always been a degree of tension in the New Zealand-France relationship and the more that tension is released, so much the better," Mr. Mckinnon said in an interview.

"We're having a much more positive dialogue with places like New Caledonia at present and of course we're watching development of the Matignon Accords closely," he said. The Matignon Accords provide for a referendum on independence for New Caledonia in 1998.

Mr. Rocard's original plans called for a side trip to the New Zealand base in Antarctica but if he comes in the middle of the year the base will be closed for the southern winter.

No offical date has been given for Mr. Rocard's visit.

Bolger Denies Seeking New Deal With U.S.

BK0403100291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Wellington, March 4 (AFP)—New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger Monday denied he was considering a deal with the United States that would compromise this country's nuclear-free laws. He told a press conference however that he would continue to work on improving relations with Washington.

Last Friday Mr. Bolger telephoned President George Bush to congratulate him over the Gulf war, the first time in seven years that leaders of the United States and New Zealand had spoken. The previous New Zealand Labour Government passed anti-nuclear laws in 1986 which effectively ended the ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and U.S.) military pact by requiring visiting warships to declare whether they had nuclear arms or not.

Mr. Bolger's party prior to last October's general elections said it endorsed the anti-nuclear laws.

U.S. Congressman Jim Leach Monday told Radio New Zealand that a compromise by Wellington in accepting Washington's policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear arms on its ships and aircraft could promote U.S. acceptance of a proposed South Pacific nuclear free zone and advancement of a comprehensive test ban.

Mr. Bolger said Mr. Leach's remarks showed both sides wanted to "constructively resolve" the issue. Asked whether he was looking for a deal, he said: "I'm not looking for a deal.... Both countries acknowledge they have the right to determine their own approach and 'neither confirm nor deny' is the approach the U.S. Government adopts around the world. "Equally New Zealand has the right to retain a non-nuclear status. That's it," Mr. Bolger said.

However the prime minister said he had already "achieved a significant improvement in relations between Wellington and Washington."

Air New Zealand Orders 5 New Boeing Planes

BK0103052691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Auckland, New Zealand, March 1 (AFP)—Air New Zealand announced Friday it had placed orders for five new aircraft worth 450 million U.S. dollars with the Boeing commercial airplane group.

Airline Chief Executive Jim Scott said in a statement it had ordered four Boeing 767-300ER (extended range) and one Boeing 747-400 and had options on five more Boeing 767-300S and two Boeing 747-400S.

The aircraft will be delivered between 1994 and 1999.

Air New Zealand currently operates eight Boeing 767-200S (three owned and five leased), five Boeing 747-200S and two Boeing 747-400S. A third Boeing 747-400 will arrive next year plus two Boeing 767-300s this year.

Mr. Scott said the airline had increased its fleet capacity by around 15 per cent in the last year and was confident capacity would increase at an average rate of between six and 10 per cent annually until 2000.

Air New Zealand is owned by Brierley Investments (35 per cent), a consortium of Qantas, American Airlines and Japan Airlines (35 per cent) and New Zealand Public Holdings (30 per cent).

Meanwhile in a seperate statement Air New Zealand and Qantas announced they would increase by 65 per cent the number of joint services they operate across the Tasman Sea.

The new "Tasman Air Share" will see 158 flights shared, or 83 per cent of the total number operated by the airlines.

"We have entered into this partnership with Qantas to ensure that both carriers remain competitive and viable, providing a regularity of service to and from New Zealand that both the inbound and outbound markets demand," Air New Zealand International Chief Executive Jim McCrea said in the statement.